

# The Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation Religion King

## CAMBODIA REDD+ FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY GRANT II

### TERMINAL EVALUATION REPORT



**កម្មវិធីដេបូកកម្ពុជា**  
**CAMBODIA REDD+ PROGRAMME**

NOVEMBER

2020

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## ACRONYMS

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AIP	Action and Investment Plan
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CAM-REDD	The Project for Facilitating the Implementation of REDD+ Strategy and Policy
CBR+	Community Based REDD+
CCCA	Cambodia Climate Change Alliance
CF	Community Forestry
CFi	Community Fishery
CG	Consultation Group
CI	Conservation International
COP	Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC
CPA	Community Protected Area
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EGR	Environmental Governance Reform
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELCs	Economic Land Concessions
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FA	Forestry Administration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FiA	Fisheries Administration
FIP	Forest Investment Programme
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
FRL	Forest Reference Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDANCP	General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GG	Gender Group
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoWA	Ministry of Women’s Affairs
MRT	Mid-Term Review
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPASMP	National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
NRTF	National REDD+ Taskforce
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
PAMs	Policies and Measures
PEB	Project Executive Board
PF	Partnership Forestry
PFSP	Production Forests Strategic Plan
RBP	Results Based Payments
RECOFTC	Center for People and Forests
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks
REL	Reference Emission Level (also called the REDD+ Baseline or Reference Scenario)
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RTS	REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat
TE	Terminal Evaluation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SOI	Summary of Information
SPFCM	Strategic Plan for Fisheries Conservation and Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations REDD+ Initiative
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- i. This document presents the Terminal Evaluation (TE) findings of the implementation of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Additional Grant (FCPF-II) and an overall assessment of the status of REDD+ in Cambodia. The purpose of the TE is to assess: (i) the performance of the project in terms of its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency (outputs and results); (ii) sustainability and up-scaling of results; and (iii) the actual and potential impact stemming from the project. The TE also assesses the status and progress of the Cambodia's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP 2011) based on the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework (2013).
- ii. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) officially endorsed REDD+ in 2009 as a crucial strategy to tackle the alarming trend of deforestation and to improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. For the last decades, Cambodia has undergone rapid economic development. As a result, its natural resources including forests have been under growing pressure. Cambodia's forest cover declined from 57% in 2010 to 44% in 2018 (RGC 2017). The main objective of REDD+ is to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; to foster the conservation and sustainable management of forests; and to promote the enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- iii. The Cambodia REDD+ process has been guided by a Roadmap approved in September 2010, covering six main components of REDD+ Readiness: 1. Management of National REDD+ Readiness, 2. Consultation, stakeholder engagement and awareness raising, 3. Development and selection of REDD+ strategies, 4. Implementation framework (including benefit sharing and safeguards), 5. Development of the Reference Scenario against which performance will be measured, and 6. Development of a monitoring system for the national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of emissions reductions.
- iv. Since 2009, Cambodia's national REDD+ readiness efforts have been supported by numerous initiatives. These include the UN-REDD Programme, the Readiness Fund of the FCPF, CAM-REDD (Japan), and USAID's Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests (LEAF) programme.
- v. The RGC received two grants from the FCPF to support REDD+ Readiness process. The first grant of USD 3.8 million (FCPF-I) started in 2013 and ended in 2017. Following a mid-term review (MTR) of the FCPF-I and a request for additional funding in September 2016, the RGC was granted an additional USD 5 million grant (FCPF II) which was signed in September 2017.

## EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- vi. The evaluation has two parts. The first part focuses on FCPF-II outputs and assesses: i) the performance of the project in terms of its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency (outputs and results); (ii) sustainability and up-scaling of results; (iii) the actual and potential impact stemming from the project.
  - Output 1: Strengthening of REDD+ management arrangements.
  - Output 2: Development of NRS Action (or Investment) Plan(s) and other relevant enabling policy instruments for REDD+.
  - Output 3: Enhancement of subnational capacities for REDD+ planning.
  - Output 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation.
- vii. The assessment was based on data available at the time of the evaluation and on discussed outputs delivered by the project from the time of inception, in July 2017, until the time of closure in December 2020. The assessment involved a documentary review of relevant documents, such

as studies related to the country's context and situation, project documents, progress reports and other evaluation reports and discussions with senior management and staff from the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) of the Ministry of the Environment (MoE); the Forestry Administration (FA); and the Fisheries Administrations (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF); and UNDP as well as semi-structured virtual interviews with key informants, stakeholders and participants included in the Annexes. The evaluation required an in-country mission, but this was not possible due to travel restrictions and border closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- viii. The second part of the evaluation assesses progress against FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework 2013 progress indicators. This means that the evaluation considers the progress against the R-PP and provides commentary on each of the 34 progress indicators, thus covering both FCPF-I and FCPF-II.

## KEY FINDINGS

- ix. **Project Strategy:** The FCPF-II project's four outputs are highly **relevant** and were formulated following a comprehensive and consultative MTR, which identified priority gaps in the RGC's R-PP progress. Strengthening of REDD+ institutional arrangements (Output 1) needed continued support.
- x. FCPF-II outputs enabled the RGC to make further progress in implementing its R-PP by continuing to build important components. Firstly, the continued efforts to strengthen the REDD+ institutional setting contributes to a long-term capacity for operationalizing the NRS. Secondly, the preparation of the NRS Action and Investment Plan (NRS-AIP) for the implementation of the NRS to 2026 enables the RGC to prioritize and guide resource mobilization to fund and achieve REDD+ objectives and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments. Among government institutions, there has been progressive understanding of policy gaps and the need to enhance cross-sectoral policy coherence and coordination, and this is reflected in the NRS-AIP.
- xi. The FCPF-II also supported components of the NFMS, conceptualization of the REDD+ implementation framework at the subnational level, and the Safeguards Information System (SIS). Work in these thematic areas will continue beyond the FCPF grant, but the grant has been instrumental in initiating the development of important aspects such as rules and procedures for registration of REDD+ projects into a National REDD+ Project Database, phased development of the nesting approach and assessment of the Forest Reference Level (FRL) allocation.
- xii. The FCPF-II results framework was presented in a clear and concise manner, based on a comprehensive assessment that looked at the RGC's national economic development priorities, NRS strategic objectives and remaining gaps in the R-PP. It clearly identified the critical risks and assumptions. Important assumptions included government ownership, commitment to facilitate the institutionalization of policies and legal instruments formulated under the project and functional and operational capacity to implement the project. These assumptions remain valid and will continue to be important with regards to the sustainability of outputs supported by the FCPF grant.
- xiii. **Progress Towards Results:** Under Output 1, support to the REDD+ Taskforce and technical teams was delivered according to plan. This will continue until December 2020. Under Output 2, significant achievements include the preparation of a draft Action and Investment Plan (AIP) for the implementation of the NRS, the development of an Action Plan for mainstreaming gender considerations during REDD+ implementation as well as the development of the SIS. The design of a Regulatory Framework and Financial Mechanism for REDD+ implementation has been initiated and will continue beyond the project.

- xiv. The AIP details the concrete actions and related investments required for the implementation of the NRS, prioritizing the various medium and long-term activities and areas targeted for intervention. The base implementation cost is USD 154 million. Phase I (2017-2021) requires USD 73.3 million and Phase II (2022-2026) requires USD 47.5 million. A further USD 33.3 million is required to complete implementation of the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP), Production Forests Strategic Plan (PFSP), and Strategic Plan for Fisheries Conservation and Management (SPFCM).
- xv. Activities under Output 3 are still ongoing, except support for Community based REDD+ through Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and Community Forests (CFs), and the guideline and manual for the Protect Area Management Plans (PAMP). The ongoing activities include the formulation of the nested system for REDD+ implementation, which was not in the original signed Project Document, but has been subsequently added as a key strategic inclusion to the project. Implemented pilot projects, continuing beyond the FCPF-II project, are expected to be completed by the end of December.
- xvi. Activities under Output 4 are also partially complete and will continue beyond December 2020.

Output/Outcome and Description of Target	Status
<b>Output 1: Strengthening of REDD+ management arrangements</b>	
1.1 Support for National REDD+ readiness coordination mechanisms	Ongoing
1.2 Capacity building and training for REDD+ implementation	Complete
1.3 Stakeholder engagement and communication	Ongoing
<b>Output 2: Development of the NRS Action (or Investment) Plan and enabling policy instruments for REDD+</b>	
2.1 Development of NRS Action (or Investment) Plan and policy support for government agencies	Complete
2.2 Development of a Safeguards Information System including Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM)	Partially Complete
2.3 Development of elements for the participation in GCF pilot for REDD+ Results-based payments and other resource mobilization for REDD+ implementation	Partially Complete
<b>Output 3: Enhancement of sub-national capacities for integrated NRM planning for REDD+</b>	
3.1 Development of subnational management plans for NRM and REDD+ <i>(3.1.1 Development of a "Nested System" for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia) – (introduced in 2019).</i>	Ongoing
3.2 Support for Community based REDD+ through CPAs, CFs and collaborative management (financed by the UN-REDD CBR+)	Complete
<b>Output 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation</b>	
4.1 Strengthening of National MRV Technical Team and national capacity	Ongoing
4.2 Support for Nationally derived Activity Data, Emission Factors, GHG estimates for LULUCF/AFOLU sector improved, and reporting	Partially Complete
4.3 Capacity building for monitoring impacts of REDD+ interventions	Ongoing

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- xvii. FCPF-II project governance arrangements, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation were based on those set up during FCPF-I, which made the implementation simpler and **effective and efficient** due to the continuity provided by the Program Executive Board, National REDD+ Taskforce and Secretariat, the four technical teams (focused on safeguards, benefit sharing,



demonstration and MRV/REL), the Consultation Group (CG), and the Gender Group (GG). All continued their roles from FCPF-I.

- xviii. The project team prepared annual workplans, internal UNDP Country Office quarterly and annual reports, and UNDP annual progress reports to the FCPF for Cambodia. The RGC prepared annual progress reports submitted to the FCPF. These reports were cited during this evaluation and each report adequately outlined the progress against baseline and targets, including financial expenditure. However, it was observed that the multi-layered delivery arrangements resulted in multiple reports with duplicate information. Hence, there is some overlap and redundancy that could have been avoided. The reports include the UNDP Annual Report, FCPF Grant Report, and UNDP Quarterly Report. There are also additional indicator monitoring reports that the evaluation cited but the purpose of these reports is not entirely clear.

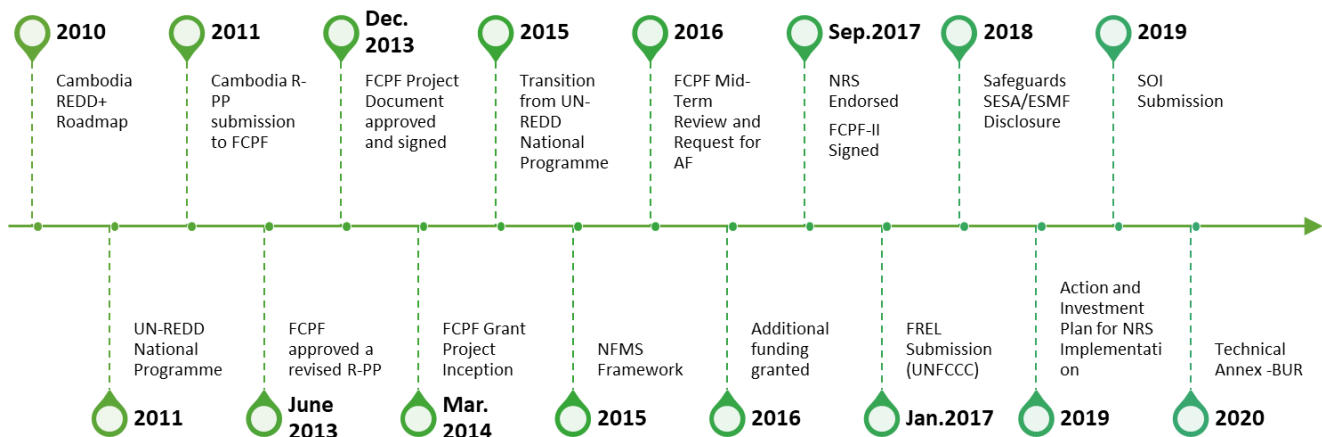
### R-PP PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

- xix. The purpose of the review is primarily to assess both progress and achievements of REDD+ Readiness in the country using the Readiness Assessment Framework 2013, which consists of a set of 34 readiness criteria, distributed under the four main readiness components, and their respective sub-components. This assessment describes a chronology of events, processes and achievements, as well as international aid that has supplemented efforts of the RGC toward REDD+ Readiness.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- xx. The RGC’s has achieved key REDD+ Readiness milestones, and this should be recognized. The NRS was formulated and endorsed in 2017, followed by a draft Action and Investment Plan for implementing the NRS. The RGC prepared a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), a SIS framework, the First Summary of Information (SoI) (submitted to UNFCCC in October 2019), the development of the Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender into Cambodia’s REDD+ Actions and Investment Plans, a forest reference level (submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2017), the BUR (submitted to UNFCCC in August 2020), and a REDD+ Technical Annex (submitted in September 2020). The timeline graphic below summarizes the key milestones achieved under the Cambodia R-PP to date.

**Figure A-1 Cambodia R-PP Key Achievements**



- xxi. The NRS proposed three strategic objectives to address the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Strategic Objective 1 focuses on actions to improve the effectiveness of monitoring the utilization of forest resources and land management. Strategic Objective 2 focuses on encouraging the implementation of sustainable forest management activities while Strategic Objective 3 focuses on promoting stakeholder participation, enhancing capacities, knowledge, and awareness to implement the national strategy. These objectives support national economic development strategies and measures to address, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change outlined in the country's NDC.
- xxii. The indicators in the table below illustrate the progress made since the MTR in 2016.

Table A-1 Summary Overview of R-PP Progress

R-PP Components, Sub-components, and Progress Indicators		MTR	TE
1	Readiness Organization and Consultation	Yellow	Green
1a	National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yellow	Green
1b	Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Green	Green
2	REDD+ Strategy Preparation	Orange	Green
2a	Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Orange	Green
2b	REDD+ Strategy Options	Yellow	Green
2c	Implementation Framework	Orange	Green
2d	Social and Environmental Impacts	Yellow	Green
3	Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level	Yellow	Green
3a	Improved subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation	Yellow	Green
4	Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	Orange	Green
4a	National Forest Monitoring System	Orange	Green
4b	Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Orange	Yellow

Progress Indicator Key (Traffic Light System)

Green	Significant progress	Yellow	Progressing well, further development required
Orange	Further development required	Red	Not yet demonstrating progress

- xxiii. **Component 1:** The RGC has set up necessary institutions for the Readiness process, i.e. National REDD+ Taskforce (NRTF), REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS), Technical Teams, and Consultation and Gender Groups. With close to a decade of engaging with stakeholders and building capacity and awareness raising, there has been growing interest and increasing participation at both the national and subnational levels. As one of the tools the RGC will use to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, the REDD+ process has also catalyzed sectoral reforms in the natural resource sector. The forestry sector's institutional and jurisdictional reforms are important developments for the implementation of the NRS. Protected areas in Cambodia total more than 7 million hectares, which is close to 40 percent of the country's land area falling under MoE.
- xxiv. **Component 2:** Through the NRS formulation process, the RGC has identified the key drivers and underlying causes of deforestation leading to the development of a suite of interventions, such as cost analysis in the NRS-AIP mentioned above. The next step is resource mobilization through both domestic and international sources.
- xxv. **Component 3:** To support the implementation of the NRS, the RGC built capacity for generating activity data and submitted its FRL to UNFCCC in 2017, using a combination of country specific and default emission factors. Further work is still required to develop representative country specific emission factors.
- xxvi. REDD+ pilot projects have been running in Cambodia since 2008 in Oddar Meanchey Community Forests and in Seima Protection Forest since 2009. These pilot projects are amongst the most

advanced in the Greater Mekong region and will offer important lessons in conceptualizing and formulating the nesting approach that the RGC has elected to follow.

- xxvii. **Component 4:** The RGC has reached an advanced stage in developing national monitoring systems, conceptual frameworks, and legal instruments to legitimize carbon emissions transactions under both voluntary schemes and NDC commitments. Cambodia already has advanced components of the National Forest Monitoring of SIS, of FRL as well as of other components, some of which are already being applied to pilot projects. An outstanding matter is whether the RGC will develop a National Forest Inventory (NFI).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the assessment of reports and project documents, interviews with all informants, this evaluation makes the following conclusions:

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO FCPF-II PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. All four outcomes of the FCPF-II project are highly relevant and have enabled the RGC to build further capacity and strengthen institutional arrangements as the country transitions from REDD+ readiness to implementation and results-based payments. Institutional, operational and technical capacities for REDD+ thematic areas such as sectoral coordination, safeguards implementation, monitoring and reporting at the subnational level requires further strengthening and is the area that poses the biggest risk to effectively implementing the NRS.
2. The project governance was generally efficient since it was a continuation of the previous grant. The evaluation has not detected any major issues with the project's strategy and results framework. A minor aspect that future project designs could consider is to simplify the monitoring and reporting. It is understandable that each party must prepare progress and financial reports. However, there seems to be some redundancy in the reports as they contain the same information.
3. On the issues of sustainability, the evaluation observed that the day-to-day project administration relied on UNDP staff comprised of national and international experts with terminal contracts. This heavy reliance on the PMU for daily project administration is a risk to continuity. The RGC should consider addressing this risk by appointing staff to gradually take over and transition the PMU's work into relevant national institutions.
4. There are activities in the results framework that are still ongoing and are unlikely to be completed before end 2020. An extension should be considered to enable the completion of these activities. A draft workplan proposal for the extension is presented in Annex 3.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO REDD+ READINESS ASSESSMENT (FEEDBACK TO THE RGC)

5. The progress with the implemented R-PP is encouraging and an important step to transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation and results-based payments. MAFF and MoE have both played significant roles given the focus on the forest sector. However, other sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, mining, etc. also drive deforestation and contribute to GHG emissions. Therefore, closer intersectoral coordination is imperative. Mainstreaming REDD+ in these sectors is also necessary, and this may require a high-level of political support to make REDD+ a core part of annual plans as opposed to being portrayed as additional work.
6. The success of REDD+ in the future will largely depend on intersectoral coordination and commitment to policy and regulatory enforcement by all sectors. Likewise, allocation of financial resources for REDD+ implementation in the NRS-AIP also needs to encourage stronger intersectoral commitments, ensuring non-forestry sectors are recognized and allocated financial support from the NRS-AIP, as part of mainstreaming REDD+ implementation.
7. The success of REDD+ will require access to sustainable finance. The NRS-AIP is a commendable milestone, which provides a clear platform for financial resource mobilization. Finalization (specifically for the financial mechanism) and endorsement of this document should be considered

a high priority to build confidence among potential funding providers. Additional prioritization maybe be required as nearly 50% of the activities in the NRS-AIP are ranked as high priority.

8. The issue of land tenure security, governance, and land ownership was raised by several stakeholders during this evaluation, pointing out that perhaps REDD+ is one of the options that can catalyze improvement in land tenure security for indigenous communities. The proposal under the NRS Strategic Objective 3.1, focusing on strengthening national and subnational capacity for an improved coordination mechanism for national land use policy and planning, is important. Clarifying the procedures for land allocation and defining the rights of provincial governments to determine land-use allocations will incentivize local communities to take ownership of interventions that lead to sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods. It is, therefore, necessary to establish a clear coordination mechanism between central and subnational government institutions and ensure adequate funding. REDD+ could leverage the Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development Project III.
9. Safeguards documents such as the SESA and ESMF have been developed but there is now merit in developing project level social and environmental standards and providing relevant capacity building for implementation. There is now sufficient understanding of the REDD+ architecture and strategic priorities in Cambodia hence an effective SIS with clear objectives, information needs, functions, and institutional arrangements can be institutionalized. Some stakeholders expressed concerns that the complexity of safeguards and limited national expertise in the implementation of a nesting system may limit the effectiveness of the REDD+ program in Cambodia. Stakeholders pointed out gaps in technical and operational capacity for implementing social and environmental safeguards at the subnational level. This will require training and preparation of guidelines and an ongoing extension of support services.
10. The absence of an NFI was been pointed out by many stakeholders including development partners. Understandably, NFIs are costly exercises, however, there would be immense benefits in developing a multi-purpose NFI which can provide useful information for economic planning and investment decisions as well as data on biodiversity indicators and forest health. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the NRS-AIP mentions NFI as one of the indicators related to forest and land use data management systems, but there is no explicit budget line for the NFI. The NRS-AIP is an opportunity where financing the NFI could be considered.
11. Clear rules and methodologies for carbon accounting, a fair system to share REDD+ benefits among various stakeholders, and a registry or database to keep track of REDD+ emission reductions at multiple spatial scales, the designed “nested” system will build confidence to attract private finance for forest conservation and enable carbon crediting at multiple scales (project, subnational, national). Finalization and endorsement of the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects (Prakas) will be instrumental to unlock private finance for REDD+ actions and should be considered an important priority.
12. The design and endorsement of the Financial Mechanism to channel REDD+ finance and sustain the costs of RTS operations will also be critical for the sustainability of Cambodia’s National REDD+ Programme. The RGC is encouraged to expedite the finalization and endorsement of the Financial Mechanism.
13. Endorsement of the reformed Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ implementation: efforts to generate sustainable funding must be coupled with efforts to build a supportive institutional framework. With the creation and staffing of technical units within the RTS, the RGC would invest its own financial and human resources, and therefore, demonstrate a real ambition to achieve



**REDD+ objectives, which will, in return, build trust and attract investments from potential investors and donors.**

**14. Continuous support and capacity building are needed to:**

- Strengthen Institutional Arrangements and improve intersectoral coordination and broad-based stakeholder engagement at national and subnational levels.
- Enforce the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects and maintain the National REDD+ project Database.
- Mainstream gender considerations in REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels.
- Operate the NFMS and SIS, and monitor progress of REDD+ implementation.

## SUMMARY OF EVALUATION OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE<sup>1</sup>

Criterion	Rating	Rating Justification
<b>Project Relevance</b>	<b>Relevant</b>	
Design and Results Framework		The evaluation finds the design of the FCPF-II project to be <b>RELEVANT</b> . It is particularly relevant because it focused on thematic areas where REDD+ readiness gaps existed. For example, supporting the preparation of a draft Action and Investment Plan for implementing the NRS, SESA, ESMF, SIS framework, nesting approach, the First Summary of Information (Sol) (submitted to UNFCCC in October 2019), the Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender into Cambodia’s REDD+ Actions and Investment Plans, the BUR (submitted to UNFCCC in August 2020), and a REDD+ Technical Annex (submitted in September 2020). Completing these components is important for preparing to participate in results-based payments.
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	
Progress towards results		The overall delivery of outputs is rated <b>SATISFACTORY</b> , and this can be attributed to the continuation of the project management structure from FCPF-I i.e. the Program Board, Secretariat and thematic technical teams. The project coordination with other projects was also generally effective. The engagement of specialist consultants to support conceptualization of the nesting approach and FREL allocation was also cost effective, but this work continues beyond the FCPF-II and needs to be sustained. The support from FCPF-II has enhanced Cambodia’s REDD+ readiness as illustrated in Figure A-1.
<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	
Project implementation and adaptive management		Efficiency is rated as <b>SATISFACTORY</b> : The FCPF-II project was designed with clear implementation arrangements, work planning, reporting and communication, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management. Efficiencies were gained from having continuity in institutional arrangements and partnerships with multiple development partners, academic institutions, civil society and existing

<sup>1</sup> **Agency coordination and implementation; outcomes; overall programme results:** Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S) Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

**Sustainability:** Likely (L); Moderately Likely (ML); Moderately Unlikely (MU); Unlikely (U).

**Relevance:** relevant (R) or not relevant (NR).

**Impact:** Significant (S), Minimal (M), Negligible (N).

Criterion	Rating	Rating Justification
		pilot projects. Changes to project design and results framework followed a clear decision process through the Project Board. Further efficiencies could be gained by reducing reporting redundancies identified during the evaluation.
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Likely</b>	
		Sustainability is <b>LIKELY</b> . The preparation of the NRS-AIP is an important sign for the potential sustainability of the REDD+ actions in Cambodia. However, sustainability will also rely on the ability of the RGC's to mobilize financial resources for implementation. The project identified risks to sustainability and worked through existing government institutions, emphasizing mainstreaming of REDD+ activities into regular operations and encouraging increased spending on REDD+ actions and capacity building for operationalization of the NRS-AIP.
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Significant</b>	
		Given the progress to date, the future impact of the outputs from the FCPF-II could be <b>SIGNIFICANT</b> . The NRS has been developed and the draft NRS-AIP (which will need to be endorsed and adopted) has been prepared. Effective implementation of the NRS and NRS-AIP and completion of the remaining work on safeguards, nesting approach, and finance mobilization will increase the impact of REDD+ in Cambodia. The REDD+ Readiness process has influenced policy thinking, which reflects the ownership and acceptance by the government that REDD+ has a role to play in the Cambodian economy and in efforts to address impacts of climate change.

# PART 1. INTRODUCTION



Photo Credit: Cambodia REDD+

## A Context of the Project

1. For decades, Cambodia has undergone rapid economic development. However, like other countries in the region, its natural resources including forests have been under growing pressure. Cambodia's forest cover declined from 57% in 2010 to 44% in 2018 (RGC 2017). To tackle this alarming trend of deforestation and to improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities, in 2009, the RGC officially endorsed REDD+ as one of its key strategies.
2. The RGC has therefore been undertaking REDD+ Readiness since 2009 with support from development partners including the FCPF, UN-REDD Programme, CAM-REDD (Japan), and USAID's Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests (LEAF) programme. The REDD+ process has been guided by a Roadmap approved in 2010, covering six main components of REDD+ Readiness: 1. Management of National REDD+ Readiness, 2. Consultation, stakeholder engagement and awareness raising, 3. Development and selection of REDD+ strategies, 4. Implementation framework (including benefit sharing and safeguards), 5. Development of the Reference Scenario against which performance will be measured, and 6. Development of the monitoring system for national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of emissions reductions.
3. The first phase of the FCPF project (FCPF-I) started in 2013 and ended in 2017. In September 2016, a mid-term review (MTR) of the FCPF-I was conducted to review the progress of REDD+ readiness. During the MTR, the RGC demonstrated significant progress but also had some major gaps that needed further financial support. Consequently, the RGC requested for additional funding of USD 5 million (FCPF-II).
4. During FCPF-I the RGC created enabling institutional frameworks for REDD+ readiness and effective stakeholder engagement. These frameworks include the REDD+ Taskforce, REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS), four technical teams (focused on safeguards, benefit sharing, demonstration and MRV/REL), a Consultation Group and a Gender Group. Cambodia's REDD+ Communication strategy was also developed to ensure full access to information related to REDD+.
5. Since 2013, the RGC embarked upon environmental governance reforms with an overall objective to achieve better protection of natural resources, the environment and sustainable development, considering the growing pressures on them. As part of the reform initiatives, in 2015 the RGC established a new institutional entity, called the "National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)," with the mandate to facilitate inter-ministerial political dialogue and decision-making to ensure sustainability across all economic, social and development sectors. The NCSD is an inter-ministerial institutional body hosted within the Ministry of Environment (MoE), composed of high-level decision makers from all the ministries. To facilitate inter-ministerial discussions on REDD+, NCSD has been formally designated as chair of the REDD+ Taskforce.
6. The RGC made major changes to institutional roles and responsibilities in the interest of accelerating the sustainable management and conservation of its forest and biodiversity resources. In March 2016, the RGC announced the consolidation of conservation areas under the MoE and the unified management of Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF). Rapid implementation of this policy measure by April 2016 led to the transfer of 1.6 million ha of protected forests from the Forestry Administration (FA) to the MoE and the transfer of approximately 450,000 ha of ELCs from the MoE to MAFF. In summary, the governance of the three major forest categories are now as follows.
  - Permanent Forest Estate is governed by the FA under MAFF;
  - Protected areas are governed by the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) under (MoE); and
  - Flooded forests and mangroves are governed by the Fisheries Administration (FiA) under MAFF.



7. The RGC developed an Environment and Natural Resources Code to establish the overarching principles and legal framework to guide the implementation of existing laws to achieve sustainable natural resource management and development. The Code is yet to be legally endorsed but it is recognized as highly relevant for REDD+ because key elements of the Code are in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), both of which were introduced to avoid, mitigate and minimize adverse social and environmental impacts of development activities and programs.
8. During FCPF-I, the RGC achieved an important milestone of drafting the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), which identified the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The draft NRS specified a set of policies and measures (PAMs) to address the drivers. The NRS was formulated in the context of national policy frameworks that guide forest management, such as the National Forest Programme (2010-2030), the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (2017-2030), and the Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries (2010-2019).
9. Cambodia is one of the early movers in implementing REDD+ pilot projects, including the Oddar Meanchey community forests from 2008 to 2013 and the Seima Protected Forest since 2009. MoE, FiA and the FA have several years of experience in testing REDD+ approaches at the subnational level with projects in Phnom Kulen National Park in Siem Reap province and Botum Sarkor National Park in Koh Kong province as well as in a mangrove forest in Preahsihanouk province, in flooded forests in Kampong Chunang province, and in a partnership and community forestry in Pursat province.
10. By 2017, the RGC also prepared the necessary groundwork for a monitoring system for REDD+, the RGC with the design of the NFMS and submission of its initial FREL to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. These achievements are important milestones towards fulfilling the four requirements of UNFCCC for results-based payments: 1) NRS 2) NFMS 3) SIS 4) FREL and to move from the REDD+ readiness phase towards implementation.
11. Cambodia is also a pilot country for the UN-REDD Programme's Community Based REDD+ (CBR+)—a partnership between the UN-REDD Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme. CBR+ aims to deliver grants directly to Indigenous Peoples and communities to empower them to fully engage in the design, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ readiness activities, and to develop experiences, lessons, and recommendations at the local level that can feed into national REDD+ processes. In 2014, Cambodia established a four-member CBR+ National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC comprises of one representative each from the FA, the MoE, civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations. A national university was contracted to develop a CBR+ Country Plan through three regional and national multi-stakeholder consultations.
12. These achievements under FCPF-I were important and created the momentum for Cambodia to transition from the readiness phase to the implementation phase and subsequently to the preparedness phase for results-based payments. The approval for additional funding following the MTR was important because it provided further opportunity for the RGC to continue the readiness phase and address some of the main gaps in its R-PP.
13. The FCPF-II was officially signed on September 2017 between the GDANCP, MoE and UNDP, an implementing partner of the World Bank. RGC submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in February 2017. Cambodia's vulnerability is focused on five specific areas: agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, human health and coastal zones. REDD+ is included in the RGC's NDC with key mitigation and adaptation measures, including actions in energy production, manufacturing industries, transport, waste and renewable energy for irrigation and solar lamps, which shows the importance for the REDD+ process to not only address the forestry sector.
14. As outlined in the project documents, FCPF-II focused on preparing Cambodia to be ready for implementation of REDD+ under the UNFCCC by 2020. This included further strengthening and development of institutions, policies and capacity. Specifically, the FCPF-II project sought the



endorsement of the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) and the development of an Action and Investment Plan (AIP) for the implementation of the NRS. FCPF-II was also designed to continue supporting and finalizing the development and operationalization of the RGC's SIS, the NFMS and FRL; to develop and consult on land use plans and management strategies for different landscapes and forest types; and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of national and subnational governments and enhance their capacities as well as those of local communities in managing natural resources.

15. The main objective of the FCPF II project was to assist Cambodia to be fully ready for REDD+ implementation by 2020. To realize this objective, the project was designed with the following four outputs:

- Output 1: strengthening of REDD+ management arrangements;
- Output 2: development of NRS Action Plan(s) and other relevant enabling policy instruments for REDD+;
- Output 3: enhancement of subnational capacities for REDD+ planning;
- Output 4: monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation.

## **B The Evaluation**

### **B.1.1 Purpose of the Evaluation**

16. The scope of the terminal evaluation (TE) is the FCPF-II project. An assessment of project performance was carried out against expectations set out in the Project Results Framework, which provided output indicators and targets for project implementation as well as the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework. The evaluation was based on data available at the time of evaluation and discussed outputs delivered by the project from the time of inception, in July 2017, until the time of closure in December 2020. It also assessed the likelihood of future outputs and targets that may not be achieved by the end of December 2020.
17. The purpose of the TE was to assess: (i) the performance of the project in terms of its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency (outputs and results); (ii) sustainability and up-scaling of results; (iii) the actual and potential impact stemming from the project.
18. The objective of the TE is to provide evidence related to the achievement of project results to date (direct, indirect and or intended) including gender mainstreaming and empowerment and to draw lessons learned that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and aid in the overall enhancement of national REDD+ programming.

### **B.1.2 Methodology of the Evaluation**

19. The evaluation is designed to be relevant to the objectives of the TE and applies the following criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability and impact of development efforts. A set of questions covering each of these criteria were included in the ToR (Annex 4). A completed table is included in the evaluation executive summary as well as the obligatory rating scales used for the overall project performance.
20. The overall approach applied international best practices and guidance to ensure an objective, independent, transparent and evidence-based evaluation process, and to ensure a participatory, inclusive and open process. The five OECD DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, were applied to the logical framework of the project. However, given that it is an FCPF terminal evaluation, the FCPF assessment criteria were also applied in order to provide useful recommendations on the status of REDD+ Readiness in Cambodia.
21. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was not possible to undertake an in-country mission because of travel restrictions, country lockdowns and border closures. All interviews and meetings were done virtually using different platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Skype. While face-to-face meetings would have been ideal in some instances, the evaluation was generally successful. A minor limitation was the interruption in network connection during a few calls, but this did not impact the evaluation. All listed stakeholders were interviewed, and efforts were made to capture stakeholder views through allowing as much time as possible for conversations and in some cases follow-up calls were arranged.

## PART 2. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION – PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Photo Credit: Cambodia REDD+

## C Assessment of Project Strategy (Design and Results framework)

22. FCPF-II was formulated following a comprehensive and participatory MTR, which concluded that the implementation of R-PP specifically under the FCPF components had progressed well at the activity level, but the overall country REDD+ readiness still required significant work and financial support. All four FCPF-II outputs were strategically selected through broad stakeholder consultation before and during the MTR. The RGC retained the original four components that were developed as part of the REDD+ Roadmap and clearly identified priority actions that needed to continue following the end of FCPF-I. Hence, they address country priorities and incorporate lessons from previous programs.
23. At the end of FCPF-I, the institutional framework established for REDD+ readiness needed to be retained and supported with further capacity building. Output 1 (Strengthening of REDD+ Management Arrangements) was selected to ensure continued support of the national REDD+ coordination mechanism and to provide technical assistance to maintain the effective functioning of the National REDD+ Taskforce and Secretariat, the four technical teams (focused on safeguards, benefit sharing, demonstration and MRV/REL), the Consultation Group, and the Gender Group. The sectoral reforms and the redefining of jurisdictional roles and responsibilities between MAFF and MoE, the establishment of the NCS, and effective engagement with civil society and the media justified the need for more targeted capacity building at both the national and subnational levels.
24. Out of necessity, Outputs 2 and 3 were strategically designed to prepare the Action and Investment Plan for the implementation of the NRS as well as to build the necessary capacity and institutional arrangements for the management of REDD+ finance. At the MTR stage, the RGC was clear that the capacity for effective policy implementation remains a challenge for line agencies. There was also strong feedback from stakeholders that REDD+ implementation required significant operational and financial capacity at both the national and subnational levels, including a safeguards and grievance redress mechanism. As such, sustainable and predictable finance needed to be a priority, and a clear fund mobilization strategy was a necessity. As with many REDD+ countries, the RGC did prioritize the formulation of an action plan and a financing strategy.
25. Output 4 is an important component—every REDD+ country needs to establish comprehensive monitoring systems including a NFMS and a carbon registry, as well as continuously improve country-specific emission factors for some carbon pools.
26. With regards to coordination with other programs, the FCPF-II continued coordination with other projects relevant to REDD+, some of which were in the pipeline. Specifically, these included the FIP, Phase 2 of the Biodiversity Corridors Initiative, UNDP Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) phase II, and the UNDP Environmental Governance Reform (EGR) project funded by USAID and JICA.
27. The FCPF project coordinated with other projects and this was one way to achieve cost effectiveness. There was notably close collaboration with FAO for the development of the NFMS related work (output 4). As the delivery partner, UNDP was supporting the EGR project, which supported the development of the Environment and Natural Resources Code. The Code is highly relevant in enabling effective civic participation, access to full information, and effective remedies, which were viewed as important for establishing a SIS. The draft Code also includes provisions to strengthen tenure and management rights of communities in relation to natural resources. Its ecosystem mapping initiative can be used to provide geo information to assist land use planning and zonation at the subnational level (output 3).
28. Although this was not part of the Project Document, the FCPF-II Project initiated the design of the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects (or “nested” system) in close collaboration with REDD+ projects proponents implementing REDD+ projects on the ground, such as conservation NGOs, WCS, MoWA and CI. A technical working group gathering representatives from REDD+ projects proponents was created for drafting the relevant Prakas, for revising the FRL and for designing the tool for FRL allocation at subnational scales.

### Risk and assumptions

29. At the design stage, there was a clear assessment of risks and assumptions. At least nine risks were highlighted including those related to the availability of adequate staff capacity in government, potential undermining of REDD+ in the non-forestry sector, potential policy conflicts between sectors, ineffective coordination and lack of shared commitment between government departments, and a potential negative impact on gender equality and women’s empowerment. A full list of these assumptions is in section 3.4 and Annex 3 of the project document.
30. Equally, the project document outlines the key assumptions adequately, noting that there must be government ownership of REDD+, recognition of REDD+ as a key policy measure to address the threats of deforestation and forest degradation, operational capacity and basic knowledge of REDD+ and technical expertise for satisfactory implementation of project activities. At the design stage, the assumption was made that capacities would exist in GDANCP, NCS, FA and FiA, which the project could build upon, using the international staff recruited to support the implementation. The project design has inherent capacity building concepts including knowledge generation through analytical work, reports, training manuals, and stakeholder engagement and feedback.
31. It was also assumed that the REDD+ Taskforce and NCS would be able to facilitate inter-ministerial discussions and decisions to mainstream REDD+ policies and measures into line-ministries policies and planning. At the policy level, the ability of the RGC to enact policies as well as to draft the Environment and Natural Resources Code was expected to provide legal foundations for REDD+ safeguards. It was also assumed that non-governmental stakeholders such as representatives from IPs, civil society, the Gender Group, academics and the private sector had sufficient interests and capacities to engage in REDD+ discussions to address their concerns. This evaluation concludes that there was adequate risk analysis and valid assumptions were made.

#### C.1.1 Assessment of Results Framework

32. As a large organization, UNDP has well-developed systems for formulating projects, developing robust results frameworks, and these were well-applied. The results framework was well-articulated in the project document supported by substantive background analysis including the MTR and an assessment note prepared in October 2017. The outputs and elected activities are highly relevant, and well contextualized with the gaps of the R-PP.
33. There were some changes to the outputs. In February 2019 the Program Executive Board agreed to the preparation of a concept note and hiring of consultants to formulate the framework for the nesting approach for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia. As part of adaptive project management, this was a strategic decision. However, the design of the nesting approach is a somewhat complex task. Hence, a staged approach is being taken i.e. (“pre-nesting” stage, “early nesting” stage, and a “fully nested” stage). This activity and the FRL allocation will continue beyond the FCPF-II, and the RGC will require an extension and funding support beyond December 2020.

#### C.1.2 Progress Towards Results (activity completion)

34. This section describes the status of progress in the implementation of specific activities under FCPF-II. Progress against R-PP based on the FCPF Assessment Framework is described in PART 2B. The Table C-1 below summarizes the status of FCPF-II activity implementation.

**Table C-1 Detailed Status of Activity Implementation**

Output/Outcome and Description of Target	Rating	Status	Rating Justification
Output 1: Strengthening of REDD+ management arrangements			



1.1 Support for National REDD+ readiness coordination mechanisms	S	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Program Board, Taskforce and Consultation Group meetings were as planned.</li> <li>•Meetings will continue beyond FCPF-II</li> </ul>
1.2 Capacity building and training for REDD+ implementation	S	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•A series of online consultation and discussion meetings with key institutions, and REDD+ project partners were conducted.</li> </ul>
1.3 Stakeholder engagement and communication	S	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•REDD+ programme website, Facebook and Twitter account are regularly updated.</li> <li>•Seek funding to update website with more information related to Warsaw Framework, AIP and design of nested system.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2: Development of the NRS Action (or Investment) Plan and enabling policy instruments for REDD+</b>			
2.1 Development of NRS Action (or Investment) Plan and policy support for government agencies	HS	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Final draft of the AIP and the policy brief prepared and consulted with RTS and REDD+ partners.</li> <li>•Online CG meeting conducted on June 12, 2020 to review the final draft of AIP-NRS.</li> </ul>
2.2 Development of a Safeguards Information System including Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM)	S	Partially Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Finalized SIS and submitted the Sol to the UNFCCC.</li> <li>•Development of the GRM and the testing and operationalization of the SIS remains ongoing.</li> </ul>
2.3 Development of elements for the participation in GCF pilot for REDD+ Results-based payments and other resource mobilization for REDD+ implementation	MS	Partially Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Development of a Concept Note to seek RBPs from GCF is delayed.</li> <li>•Finalization and submission of GCS-SAP Concept Note and the project funding proposal is ongoing.</li> <li>•Finalization and validation of the assessment report on the mapping of public and land use investment in Cambodia is ongoing.</li> <li>•Design of REDD+ finance architecture still needs to be developed.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3: Enhancement of sub-national capacities for integrated NRM planning for REDD+</b>			
3.1 Development of subnational management plans for NRM and REDD+	MS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Guideline and manual to prepare Protect Area Management Plan (PAMP) finalized and endorsed by MoE/GDANCP.</li> <li>•Design approach for subnational REDD+ implementation of landscape management approaches is ongoing.</li> <li>•Design of a nested system for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia is ongoing.</li> <li>•Finalization of subnational REDD+ pilot implementation is ongoing.</li> </ul>
3.2 Support for Community based REDD+ through CPAs, CFs and collaborative management (to be financed by the UN-REDD CBR+)	S	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Twenty-four Community Forests, Community Protected Areas, and Community Fisheries small scale projects were supported and implemented.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation</b>			
4.1 Strengthening of National MRV Technical Team and national capacity	S	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Web portal is updated with the 2006-2018 series maps and geo information.</li> <li>•A number of MRV technical team members participated in domestic and international workshops and trainings.</li> </ul>
4.2 Support for Nationally derived Activity Data, Emission Factors, GHG estimates for LULUCF/AFOLU sector improved, and reporting	S	Partially Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Completed update of time-series data of LULUCF and REDD+ monitoring approach and finalized and submitted BUR and REDD+TA to the UNFCCC.</li> <li>•Still need to complete and finalize LUCUF maps, submit FRL to UNFCCC, to confirm options for FRL, and to confirm REDD+ Emission Factors using national data.</li> </ul>

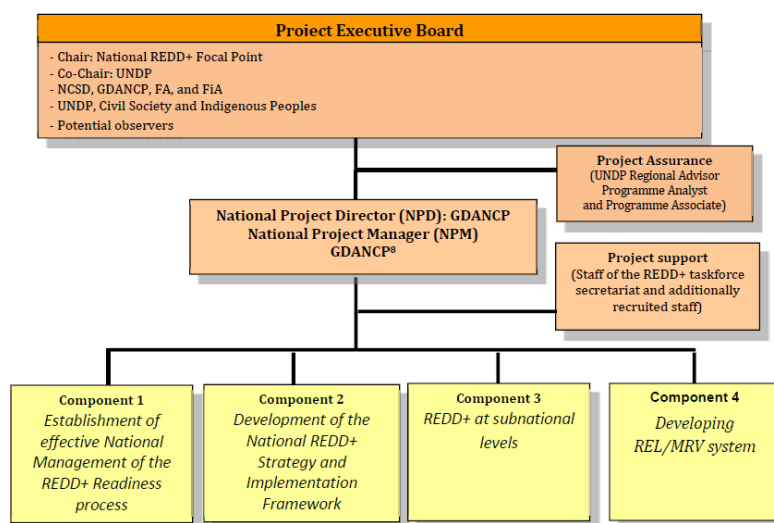
4.3 Capacity building for monitoring impacts of REDD+ interventions	MS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Published and launched 2018 forest cover assessment/LULUCF map.</li> <li>•Still working on NFMS, regulatory framework for registry and benefits sharing, and the development of a REDD+ project registry system endorsed by the REDD+ Taskforce.</li> </ul>

35. There are several factors for why many activities are labelled as ongoing. Under Output 1, stakeholder engagement and capacity development will continue beyond the FCPF project. However, the RTF, the RTS and the NCSA are demonstrating advanced understanding of the REDD+ framework and the role that REDD+ has in reducing deforestation and forest degradation as well as contributing to Cambodia’s climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. There is general agreement among the forest sector stakeholders on the need to step up efforts to mainstream REDD+ across different sectors, specifically the non-forestry sectors such as energy, agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development. Some constraints highlighted include financial, coordination and policy conflicts specifically in land tenure planning where national level policies can be inconsistent with provincial and local level policy implementation.
36. With regards to gender, the FCPF-II project strengthened the participation of the Gender Group in the formulation of the AIP-NRS and in technical discussions on safeguards and the NFMS. It is noted that in 2018 the project contracted a specialized consulting firm (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management-WOCAN) to assess the extent to which gender considerations are addressed within strategic documents, action plans and reports related to REDD+ process in Cambodia. Among its key findings, the report summarizes a series of gaps to improve gender integration into national policy documents and improve the capacity for women to participate in REDD+ and natural resources management, particularly at the subnational level. For instance, at the national level, roles and mandates for gender integration are not clear or adequate within REDD+ related government institutions. At the subnational level, there is a view that policies, strategies and plans consider the stakeholders and beneficiaries as a homogenous group with no disaggregation based on gender, ethnicity, poverty and geographical perspectives. This approach is believed to result in the exclusion of the poor, socially and geographically marginalized women and men from REDD+ and forest management activities. The Gender Group work plan for 2019 incorporated WOCAN’s findings and has started implementing its recommendations at the subnational level. This work is ongoing.

### C.1.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

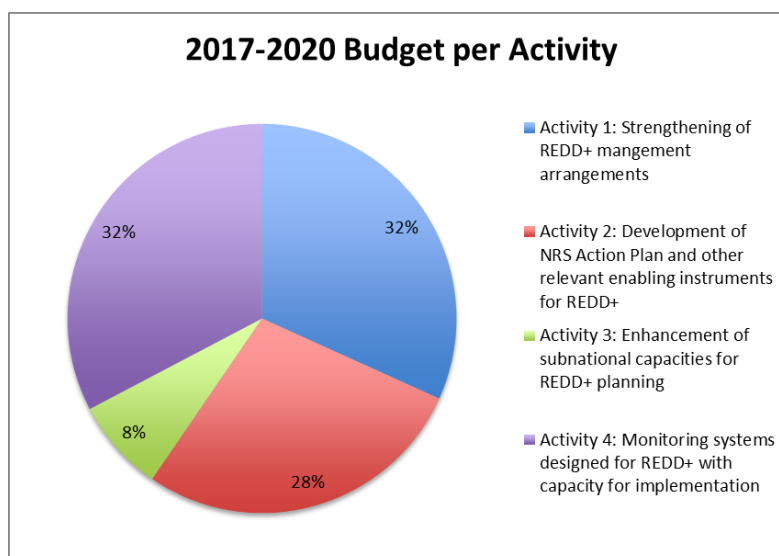
37. The FCPF-II project was designed with clear implementation arrangements (Figure C-1), work planning, reporting and communication, monitoring and evaluation, financial management and reporting arrangements. As with all UNDP projects, a Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) Micro Assessment and capacity assessment of the implementing partner, GDANCP, was carried out at the beginning. The project was implemented under the UNDP National Implementing Modality (NIM), governed by the Program Executive Board under the overall guidance of the RTF.

**Figure C-1 Project Organisational Structure**



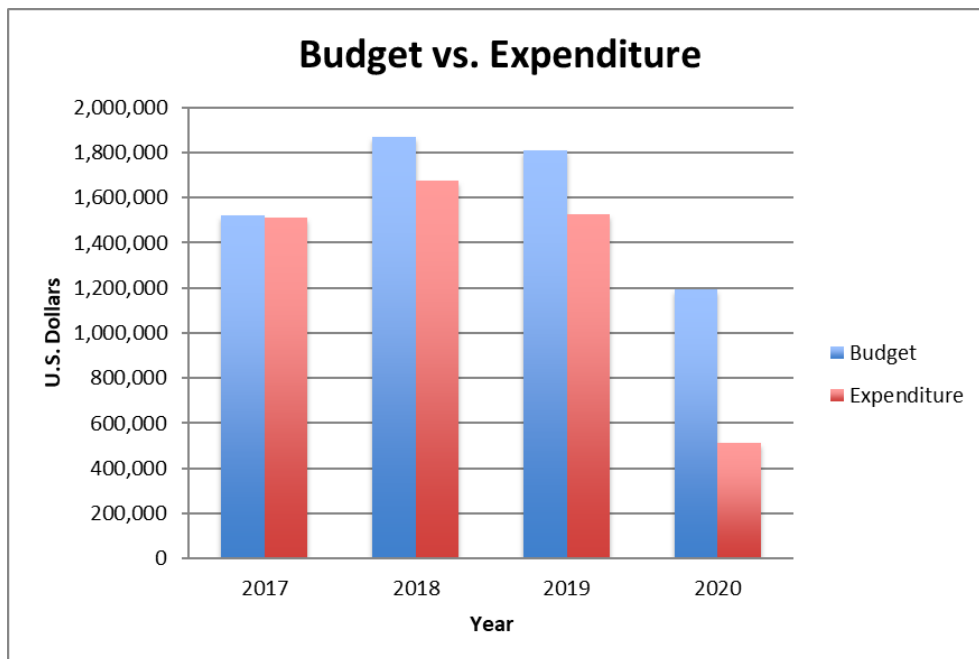
38. The REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat, consisting of technical specialists and administration staff provided day-to-day technical advisory and administrative assistance. Local and international experts were recruited to undertake specialist thematic tasks (MRV, FREL, Nesting Approach, Safeguards, NRS-AIP, etc.)
39. From the HACT assessment, the overall risk was determined to be low and Direct Cash Transfer was used for transferring funds from UNDP to a GDANCP’s bank account on a quarterly basis based on approved workplans. GDANCP released the funds to responsible parties such as NCS, FA and FiA based on an output-based payment Letter of Agreement (LOA). Adequate change management measures were put in place including budget tolerances.
40. The work planning, financial management, monitoring and evaluation were generally effective. Comprehensive annual workplans were prepared for each year. Two annual progress reports were prepared (one by the RGC and another by UNDP) and submitted to the FCPF. The budget allocation equally prioritized Output 1 and 4 at 32% each, followed by Output 2 at 28% of the total (Figure C-2).

**Figure C-2 Budget allocation per activity**

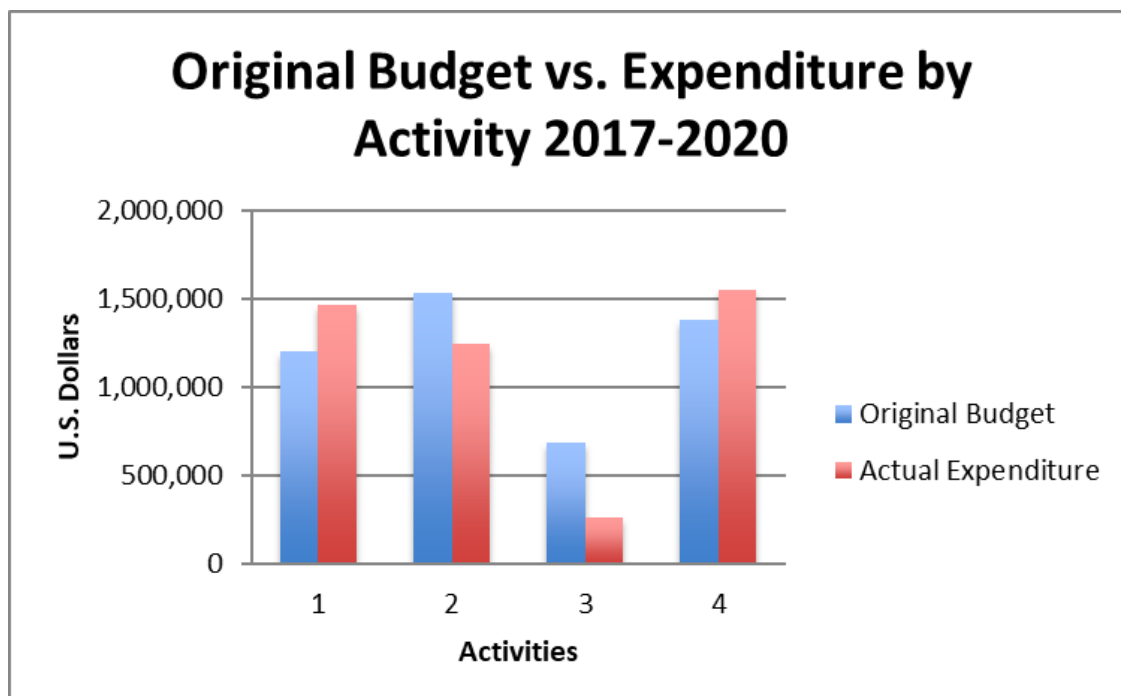


41. The variance in the annual expenditure against budget allocations is reflected in the 2020 budget. Although, at the time of this evaluation, the project still has four months before its end. All available funds are expected to be utilized.

**Figure C-3 Budget vs Expenditure (2017 to 2020)**



**Figure C-4 Original budget against expenditure to date**



#### C.1.4 Sustainability and Scaling Up

42. The risks and mitigation measures identified in the project document remain valid. For instance, government ownership, sufficient institutional capacity (operational, financial and technical), effective

participation of non-forestry sectors, commitment through enactment of necessary reforms (e.g. the Environment Code, the REDD+ Action & Investment Plan, the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects, etc.), and effective coordination will continue to be important as the REDD+ process transitions from readiness to implementation and results-based payments.

43. The project document identifies that sustainability will be achieved through financial, institutional, social, environmental sustainability, and innovation. As mitigation against the identified risks, the project worked through existing government institutions, emphasizing mainstreaming of REDD+ activities into regular operations and encouraging increased spending on actions outlined in the NRS and the subsequent operationalization of the NRS-AIP.
44. Not all the risks identified in the project document could be mitigated directly by the FCPF-II project. A significant point of discussion during the evaluation virtual mission was the institutional operational capacity to implement REDD+ activities in non-forestry sectors as well as at the subnational level. A combination of factors that could affect the potential impact of REDD+ at the subnational level include financial limitations, community awareness, and the more complicated aspects related to land rights, tenure, and governance for which the RGC is gradually making reforms.
45. Critical feedback, which the RGC acknowledges, is that efforts to address land tenure and ensure access and tenure security for communities will take time to resolve as policy formulation at the national and local levels will require significant sectoral coordination and time. Availability of financial resources post FCPF support is not guaranteed. The RGC has prepared the NRS-AIP with a long suite of options that can be prioritized to operationalize the NRS. It is also engaging international development partners through bilateral means and by preparing proposals to access global multilateral funds such as the GCF.
46. There is concern amongst stakeholders, reiterated in multiple documents, that while institutional arrangements have been enacted for REDD+ readiness, the FCPF-II project's daily administration has relied heavily on the UNDP members of the FCPF-II PMU. This is a risk that the RGC should consider addressing by appointing staff at least six months before the end of the project to gradually take over and transition the PMU's work into relevant national institutions.



## PART 3. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION – R-PP PROGRESS



Photo Credit: Cambodia REDD+

**Table C-2 Self-Assessment – June 2020**

Component	Sub-Component	Summary scores
Readiness organization and consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	
	1b. Consultation, participation and outreach	
REDD+ Strategy preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	
	2c. Implementation Framework	
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	
Reference Emission Level/Reference Level	3a. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	
Monitoring system for forests and safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring	
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	

Traffic light key	
	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress

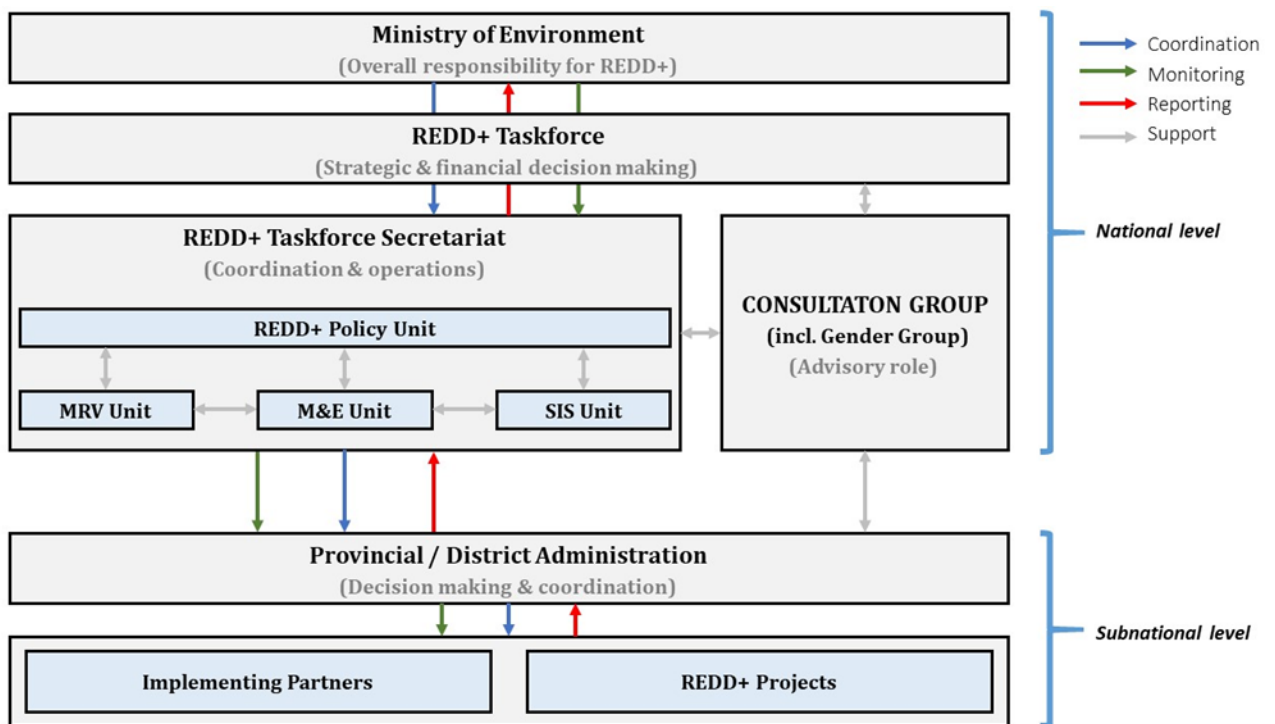
## D COMPONENT 1: READINESS ORGANISATIONS AND CONSULTATION

### D.1 Sub-component 1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements (Criteria 1-6)

- 1) Accountability and transparency
- 2) Operating mandate and budget
- 3) Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration
- 4) Technical supervision capacity
- 5) Funds management capacity
- 6) Feedback and grievance redress mechanism

47. In terms of the management of REDD+, the proposed institutional and management arrangements for the REDD+ implementation phase are well described in the NRS with further elaboration in the advanced draft of the AIP-NRS.

**Figure D-1 Draft Institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation phase**



48. The institutional arrangements for REDD+ were defined in the early stages of the REDD+ readiness phase. These arrangements include the REDD+ Taskforce (chaired by the NCSD), the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (chaired by the Forestry Administration), a Consultation Group, a Gender Group and four Technical Teams (Safeguards, Benefits Sharing, Demonstration and MRV/FRL). The FCPF-II project supported the reform of institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation (as shown in Fig D-1). These institutional arrangements define the mandates, roles and responsibilities of the different institutions responsible for REDD+ implementation at the different implementation scales as well as the coordination, monitoring and reporting lines between the different institutions at the different levels.

49. The description of national and subnational entities that will manage REDD+ have been articulated in the AIP-NRS, but this is still to be finalized as the AIP-NRS is yet to be endorsed and approved by the government. The key agencies that have been engaged in the readiness process are the FA and FiA of

MAFF alongside the GDANCP of the MoE. The role of these institutions, based on the current proposal, will continue into implementation and results-based payments.

50. In relation to Criterion 1, the evaluation finds that stakeholders appreciate the efforts by the RGC to continuously improve accountability and transparency of REDD+, but they also stress that the success of REDD+ policies and measures will require accountability across sectors and between national and subnational institutions. The NRS outlines the creation of a monitoring and evaluation framework which is intended to create an enabling environment of accountability and learning. These instruments are expected to then contribute to effective and timely implementation, strengthen accountability and transparency, and promote participatory and open learning. The framework will also have indicators that track delivery of results and benefits to vulnerable communities, indigenous peoples, and women. The collection of gender disaggregated data will be prioritized. The NRS also states that when established, the REDD+ fund (as proposed in the (NRS-AIP) would adhere to internationally accepted principles of transparency, accountability, effectiveness, equity and efficiency.
51. The RGC has received support from the GEF/LDCF through the project “Strengthening capacity in the agricultural and land use sectors for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Cambodia’s NDC.”<sup>2</sup> Through this project, the RGC will develop capacity to be able to prepare reports from the agriculture and land use sectors consistent with the requirements of the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework, including more up-to-date inventories of emissions’ sources and sinks, using advanced IPCC guidance and information necessary to track progress against priority actions identified in Cambodia’s NDC.
52. Criterion 2 on operating mandates and budget has been well described in the NRS-AIP. The RGC has reviewed and proposed a potential financial management approach, and the NRS-AIP proposes a base implementation budget of up to USD 154 million. This is described in later sections in more detail.
53. On Criterion 3, which addresses the critical issue of coordination, the self-assessment presented in the grant report (July 2020) indicates significant progress, however, stakeholder feedback during the TE suggests that “multi-sectoral coordination and general coordination at the subnational level remains weak.” There are calls for more coherent policy implementation across the major sectors (forestry, agriculture, energy and lands). Given the ‘institutional architecture’ that has both national and provincial institutions implementing REDD+, coordination between sectors which are crucial to REDD+ such as agriculture, mining, transport, infrastructure, and others will require continuous attention.
54. At the policy level, NCSD, established in 2015, is the inter-ministerial mechanism for coordination of climate change response in the country. The Council comprises high-level representatives (Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State) of concerned government ministries and agencies, with the Prime Minister as its Honorary Chair and the Minister of Environment as its Chair. Council membership has increased, covering a greater number of ministries and agencies, including provincial governors.
55. With regards to Criterion 4 and 5, on technical supervision and funds management capacity, the RGC has, through multiple programs established the pathway to strengthen capacity at the national and subnational levels. The readiness process in Cambodia has provided multiple options for building the necessary technical supervision capacity with national institutions. The jurisdictional changes in roles and responsibilities between MAFF and MoE have perhaps provided significant opportunities for more focused resource allocation and strategic capacity building to increase policy custodianship and better sectoral coordination.
56. On Criterion 6, regarding Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) issues, the RGC has completed the analysis and presented the SESA and ESMF, the institutional frameworks for implementing

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<sup>2</sup> GEF Project ID: 9837

FGRM. The assessment looked at the legal and regulatory frameworks for facilitating FGRM and safeguarding FGRM; identified capacity gaps; and provided recommendations for strengthening the effective implementation of FGRM through stakeholder consultations and social mobilization campaigns to sensitize relevant stakeholders, among others, on how to utilize FGRM. The ESMF and SESA documents provided recommendations which included the need for the RGC to conduct a rapid assessment of existing formal and informal grievance redress mechanisms and to develop a framework for a dedicated REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanism if necessary. The observation from this evaluation, based on discussions with several stakeholders and confirmed in the ESMF-SESA document, is that the RGC needs to:

- Identify options for strengthening dispute resolution for effective provincial and local forest governance.
- Develop standard operating procedures and publicize FGRM policies.

## D.2 Sub-component 1b Consultation, Participation, and Outreach (Criteria 7-10)

7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

8) Consultation processes

9) Information sharing and accessibility of information

10) Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

57. Regarding Criterion 7 and 8, the RGC established a clear and structured system of participation consultation during FCPF-I and that continued with FCPF-II. The National REDD+ Taskforce and Secretariat, the four technical teams (safeguards, benefit sharing, demonstration and MRV/REL), Consultation Group, and the Gender Group provided the mechanism for participation and engagement of key stakeholders. A Communication Plan (2017) provided the framework for the country's REDD+ communication principles. Discussions with stakeholders involved in project implementation indicates a broad understanding and commitment to continuously engage with local communities including preparing tailored material in local languages.
58. The REDD+ Consultation Group was formed with 18 members representing nine CSOs and community groups as well as international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Community Forestry (CF) groups, Community Protected Area (CPA) groups, Community Fishery (CFi) groups, IPs groups, the private sector, and academic institutions.
59. There is general acknowledgement on the RGC's efforts to engage in broad consultations, and this is illustrated in the way the RGC formulated the REDD+ Roadmap, FIP, SESA, ESMF, the NRS, AIP-NRS as well as in the formulation of the nesting approach, the preparation of the sub-decree on rules and procedures for participation in greenhouse gas emissions reduction mechanisms, and the Prakas for REDD+ GHG mechanism. However, according to feedback, consultation alone may not be sufficient especially with regards to engaging with CSOs and NGOs who believe they could play a bigger role in creating awareness and in building capacity of local communities to effectively participate in REDD+. The main request from stakeholders is for the RGC to include CSOs and NGOs in resource allocation for the implementation of REDD+. The RGC is therefore encouraged to continue efforts such as the FA work on strengthening the implementation of forestry partnership and on the promotion of sustainable renewable energy options and agroforestry by establishing important channels for community participation that could be upscaled in other areas. The CBR+ is also considered a good model that, if upscaled, can be an effective way to increase the participation of local communities.
60. For information sharing accessibility and public disclosure (Criterion 9 and 10), the RGC's REDD+ Communication Strategy outlines the framework and identifies target audiences, including academics and



research institutes, government agencies (decision-makers including legislators, politicians, government bodies, including central and local government), development partners, the private sector, international and national NGOs, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, journalists, the media, and the general public.

61. Access to information is provided through programme leaflets, workshops, trainings, special events, newspapers, print and online publications and the dissemination of reports and REDD+ material via a content-rich website (<http://www.cambodia-redd.org>). The website contains a wealth of information about national REDD+ framework, institutional setup, implementation progress, outputs from the implementation of the different development support mechanisms as well as current highlights. Reports, studies or progress made in connection with the REDD+ process such as consultation reports are published on the REDD+ website including work currently underway through the demonstration sites.

## E COMPONENT 2: REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARATION

### E.1 Sub-component 2a Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

- 11) Assessment and analysis of land use and land use change drivers
  - 12) Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement
  - 13) Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities
  - 14) Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance
  - 15) Implications for forest law and policy
62. On Criteria 11, 12 and 13, the RGC has prepared a REDD+ Strategy supported by substantive analysis of national land use and land use change for the years 2006, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2018, using well-established methodological approaches, identifying the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified are listed in the box below.

- Improvements in accessibility to remote forested areas, commercial logging, and infrastructure projects and inadequate government capacity to manage forests in these areas.
- Uncertain land tenure, land speculation, unauthorised encroachment of forest lands.
- Rapid expansion of agriculture into forest lands, grant of large scale agro industrial economic land concessions, and distribution of land titles under social land concessions between 1996-2012.
- Unauthorized logging and unsustainable harvesting of forest and non-timber products.
- Weak forest governance, law enforcement, and monitoring of forest and land use sector.
- Increasing regional and global demand for raw materials such as rubber and sugar.
- Population increase and demand for agricultural land.
- Rural poverty and lack of alternative livelihoods.
- Other drivers include migration into forest areas, weak implementation of land laws, inadequate implementation of environmental and social impact assessment regulations, and a lack of state land registration and forest estate demarcation.

63. The underlying causes of deforestation and barriers have been identified and include:
- Weaknesses in governance and monitoring capacities in the forest and land use sector.
  - Lack of coordination between ministries on land use planning.
  - Low levels of stakeholder participation and involvement in the forest and land use sector.
  - Lack of long-term finance/ human resources to support the effective implementation of forest sector plans.
  - Insufficient data and evidence to design effective forest crime prevention measures.
  - Rural poverty due to lack of alternative livelihood.
64. The identification of drivers and underlying causes and barriers, has out of necessity, enabled the RGC to formulate the NRS with a suite of interventions that are included in the AIP. Forest cover change maps for the periods 2006-2010, 2010-2014, 2014-2016 and 2016-2018 were used to provide up-to-date

information on land use and land use change for the Biennial Update Report (BUR) and technical annex on REDD+.

65. The NRS outlines three strategic objectives that will form the basis for addressing the above-mentioned drivers. Strategic Objective 1 focuses on actions to improve effectiveness of monitoring on the utilization of forest resources, land and management. Strategic Objective 2 focuses on encouraging implementation of sustainable forest management activities while Strategic Objective 3 focuses on promoting stakeholder participation and enhanced capacities as well as knowledge and awareness to implement the national strategy. It is also important to note that among the target actions, the implementation of pilot projects, such as the Sor Sor Sdom in Siem Reap by FiA, provides important knowledge, experience and capacity for managing unique landscapes, including flooded forests and mangroves. Cambodia has flooded forests in 12 provinces, covering 766,440 hectares and mangrove forests in four provinces, covering 78,405 hectares. These forests host a diverse array of aquatic species. Fish are not only a vital food source but also an important source of income for communities. Flooded and mangrove forests are also known for their high rates of carbon sequestration, and therefore, play an important role in climate change mitigation.
66. On Criterion 14, the NRS Strategic Objective 3.1 focuses on strengthening national and subnational capacity for an improved coordination mechanism for national land use policy and planning. This will include reviewing current procedures for land allocation and defining the rights of provincial governments to determine land-use allocations. These are important interventions, and the RGC should consider mobilizing resources to sustain the process until the land tenure and land planning systems are robust.
67. The establishment of the NCS has a positive impact on the governance and management of forest resources. Oversight of the allocation of forest land resources for national development plans has been strengthened through a 2012 moratorium on granting contracts for ELCs and the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to ensure compliance and improved management of ELCs. In addition, the Environmental Code is expected to enshrine standards for social and environmental safeguards and a grievance redress mechanism that will contribute to Cambodia's REDD+ implementation framework and the country's ability to meet UNFCCC requirements for results-based payments.
68. The RTS has also initiated development of a nested system for REDD+ implementation. It will be three-staged approach comprising a "pre-nesting" stage, "early nesting" stage, and a "fully nested" stage. An important implication of the decision to adopt a nested approach is that Cambodia must develop options to allocate the FRL at multiple spatial scales. There is merit in this approach in that it will enable the RGC to clarify carbon rights and further motivate private sector participation and investment in emission reduction initiatives.
69. Under Criterion 15, the RGC has made progress including a wide range of policy developments, such as gender mainstreaming; the strengthening of production forest management through a revised Production Forest Strategic Plan 2018-2032 and NPASMP 2017-2031. There has also been the establishment of a legal framework for participation in emission reduction programs, underpinned by a sub-decree on rules and procedures for participation in GHG emissions reduction mechanisms and Prakas (resolution) for the REDD+ GHG mechanism. The sub-decree will specifically establish:
  - A National Authority (NA) for GHG ER Mechanisms;
  - Define the roles and responsibilities of the NA;
  - Define ownership and transfer of GHG ERs;
  - Establish rules and procedures regarding the participation of government agencies at all levels: private entities, non-governmental organizations, local communities and other stakeholders in GHG ER Mechanisms in Cambodia.

70. The objective of the Prakas is to provide Rules and Procedures for registration into the National REDD+ Project Database, including Conditions of Eligibility. It should be noted that the National REDD+ Database will provide functions that would otherwise be provided by a national registry. The Prakas are intended to support the Sub-decree on Rules and Procedures for Participation in GHG ER Mechanisms, which applies to all GHG ER mechanisms (including: (a) those established under the UNFCCC; (b) those established outside the UNFCCC; and (c) Voluntary GHG ER schemes in all sectors (e.g. energy, industry, forest and land use, etc.).

## E.2 Sub-component 2b REDD+ Strategy Options

- 16) Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options
- 17) Feasibility assessment
- 18) Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

71. Under criteria 16 and 17, stakeholders expressed that the strategy options are feasible for implementation but conditional on the ability of the RGC to mobilize financial resources, strengthen sectoral coordination, broad mainstreaming of REDD+, and commit to operationalization of policies and measures. The analytical work and lessons from pilot projects have enabled the RGC to identify priority actions that support local livelihoods. For example, the Phnom Kulen pilot project, in Siem Reap province on a plateau covering approximately 37,373 hectares, is an important habitat for native flora and fauna and a source of water for rice production. The park is important as a tourist destination with visitors coming for both its natural beauty and its importance as an Angkorian archaeological site. There is an existing CPA and a privately owned tourist concession. This interplay of actors with limited cooperation remains a challenge both for managing and conserving the biodiversity of the park and in efforts to enforce stricter controls on drivers of deforestation.
72. The drivers of deforestation study recommended four priority interventions that include land use planning, strengthening community-based forest management, enhancing economic benefits from sustainable management of the protection forests and the restoration of degraded areas. The RGC is also taking actions to better understand land use financing in the country. For example, the FCPF-II project and the European Forest Institute initiated a study on Land-use Finance Mapping to inform policymakers, development partners and other stakeholders interested in sustainable land use.
73. The AIP provides a strategic framework in which the objectives of the NRS are aligned with those for protected areas, production forestry and sustainable fisheries as well as with national priorities for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth, including those defined under the RGC's Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency.
74. The final draft of AIP-NRS and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework details the concrete actions and related investments required for the implementation of the NRS, prioritizing the various medium and long-term activities and areas targeted for intervention. The base implementation cost is USD 154 million. Phase I (2017-2021) requires USD 73.3 million and Phase II (2022-2026) requires USD 47.5 million. A further USD 33.3 million is required to complete implementation of the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP), Production Forests Strategic Plan (PFSP) and Strategic Plan for Fisheries Conservation and Management (SPFCM).
75. The implications of the NRS options on existing sectoral policies (Criterion 18) should be highly positive on national and subnational institutional capacities, on sectoral coordination and on reducing policy conflicts. The RGC has used the NRS-AIP to undertake economic analysis, which suggests that under a REDD+ strategic path, non-carbon provisioning services, regulating services and cultural services remain at a higher level than under a non-REDD+ development path. As a result, a REDD+ compliant development path ensures the preservation of a greater portion of ecosystem services and carbon and non-carbon

benefits than other alternatives, should the RGC manage to mobilize the necessary resources outlined in the NRS-AIP.

76. The NRS-AIP provides an analysis of carbon emission reduction benefits under two scenarios: REDD+ compliant and 'business as usual.' There is an estimated difference of 359.35 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e between the two scenarios, which equates to USD 1.8 billion at USD five per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### E.3 Sub-component 2c Implementation framework

- 19) Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations
- 20) Guidelines for Implementation <sup>3</sup>
- 21) Benefit sharing mechanism
- 22) National REDD+ registry and system for monitoring REDD+ activities

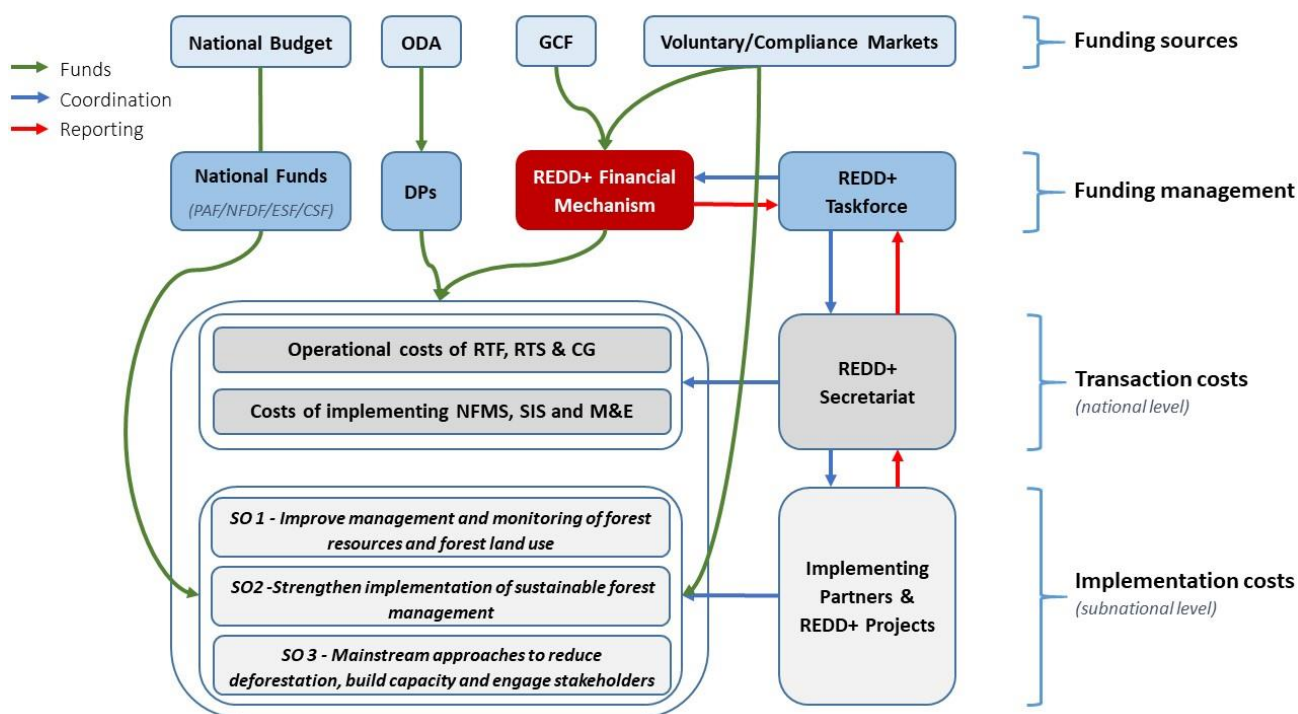
77. Criterion 19 is already addressed under Criterion 14 and 15. On Criteria 20 and 21, the RGC prepared strategic plans to guide the implementation of the NRS. Key among these plans are an updated NFP, the NPASMP (MoE), the PFSP (FA), Strategic Plan for Mangrove and Flooded Forest (FiA), SIS, and MRV system. The development of knowledge and guidelines for the overall implementation will also continue to evolve as lessons are drawn from the three pilot projects (Kulen and Sor Sor Sdom, Siem Reap and Samroung, Pursat) as well as the CBR+ project.
78. With regards to benefit sharing, there is currently no benefit sharing legal instrument, but the RGC's NRS-AIP indicates that the nested approach to REDD+ will encompass benefit sharing approaches and systems that will account for carbon at multiple scales and incorporate "local-scale activities/projects into jurisdictional REDD+ schemes as well as subnational programs." This suggests that the benefit sharing framework will evolve as the nested approach develops. Benefit sharing is an area that will require strategic consideration to ensure communities are incentivised in their efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
79. It is worth noting that the RGC is preparing concept notes to submit to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other funding options. This should clarify how projects and programs will benefit local communities and all key players while contributing to emission reductions in a measurable manner. As a REDD+ country, Cambodia is eligible to receive payments based on demonstrated reduced emissions. Such payments may be deposited into a national REDD+ fund, at which point decisions would be made on the allocation of incentives.
80. For Cambodia, the current focus is to address the upfront costs of implementation as outlined in the NRS-AIP and to establish a financing framework as illustrated in Figure E-1.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/technical-report.html> - Strategies and technical documents



**Figure E-1 Draft Financial Architecture for REDD+ implementation**



81. With regards to Criterion 22 progress on National REDD+ registry and system for monitoring REDD+ activities, the RGC has taken several steps towards establishing inter-connected systems for monitoring REDD+ activities. As part of the formulation of the nested approach, the RGC is also conceptualizing the architecture of the National REDD+ Project Database. There is acknowledgement that this is a relatively complex area that will require continuous technical support from development partners. The conceptualization of the nesting approach is being carried out by international specialist consultants. Some stakeholders raised concerns that national capacity needs to be developed through broader involvement of local experts.

#### E.4 Sub-component 2d Social and environmental impact

- 23) Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues
- 24) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts
- 25) Environmental and Social Management Framework

82. Regarding Criterion 23, several reviews of policies and legal frameworks have been completed, gaps and draft principles identified, and criteria and indicators developed, resulting in the formulation of the SESA and ESMF documents, which have been publicly disclosed on the Cambodia REDD+ web portal. A framework for the design of the SIS was prepared in 2018 as the basis for the SIS now in place. Cambodia's SIS includes appropriate institutional arrangements for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information. The Cambodia SIS website and database can be accessed here: <https://cambodia-redd-safeguards.org>. There is a comprehensive SIS user manual that adequately explains and clarifies all seven safeguards in line with national circumstances.

83. The RGC prepared its first Summary of Information (Sol) and officially submitted it to the UNFCCC in 2019. The Sol presents how Cambodia will address and respect Cancun Safeguards during REDD+ implementation and identifies key modalities and practical arrangements that will be promoted and are in line with national policies, laws and regulations and relevant to international treaties and conventions.

84. During this evaluation, stakeholders continually stressed the importance of safeguards and of having a robust SIS with clear objectives, information needs, functions, and institutional arrangements. The RGC is also encouraged to build capacity at all levels for the implementation and observation of safeguards measures. There are concerns that the complexity of safeguards and limited national expertise in implementation of a nesting system may limit the effectiveness of the REDD+ program in Cambodia.
85. On Criterion 25, the RGC prepared its ESMF document in 2018 outlining applicable safeguard commitments with reference to the UNFCCC and FCPF requirements and UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. The ESMF assessed the social and environmental impacts of both direct and enabling interventions. As required, the ESMF also provided a comprehensive summary of an applicable legal and institutional framework with regards to human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

## **F COMPONENT 3: REFERENCE EMISSIONS LEVEL/REFERENCE LEVEL**

### **F.1 Sub-component 3a Improved subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation**

- 26) Demonstration of methodology
- 27) Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances
- 28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines

86. Regarding Criterion 26 and 27, the RGC has developed methodological approaches for data collection, generating forest cover change maps, and data analysis. There is also a wide variety of tools that are being used with support from development partners such as FAO, JICA and SERVIR Mekong that should enable the RGC to establish a sustainable and robust system.
87. An issue that has been raised about the approach in Cambodia is that the country has no NFI. Hence, there is reliance on project-based inventory data. The FREL explains the pitfalls and mitigation measures taken in use of such data to ensure consistency with the UNFCCC and IPCC guidance.
88. The RGC submitted its initial national Forest Reference Level (FRL) to UNFCCC in 2017 and is currently updating the FRL with plans to resubmit in January 2021. The first FRL is based on a historical average of net emissions from deforestation initially for the period 2006 to 2014, taking into account national circumstances and data availability. The updates to the FRL include the adjustment to the reference period to 2010-2018 and Activity Data (AD) with the Stratified Area Estimator approach being used to estimate AD. The change in reference period is expected to be more representative of deforestation trends. The primary information sources to estimate AD at the national level in Cambodia are the forest cover change maps for the years 2010, 2014, 2016, and 2018, and a collection of sampling plots reference data from 2019.
89. An important development in relation to the FRL is the emerging nesting framework where the RGC is currently developing options to allocate the FRL at multiple spatial scales for REDD+ implementation. For this purpose, the RGC will need to develop country specific emission factors for more accurate emission and removal estimates and offer more informed guidelines for current and future individual projects.
90. On Criterion 28, the RGC, like other REDD+ countries, has followed UNFCCC guidelines as well as considered frameworks such as the FCPF Methodological Framework 2016, the Verified Carbon Standard, and the Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ Requirements. The technical assessment of the first FRL submission confirmed the adherence to the IPCC good practice guidance on methodological approaches as well as offered feedback on areas for improvement. Thus, the RGC is applying updates to the FRL and updating the documentation.

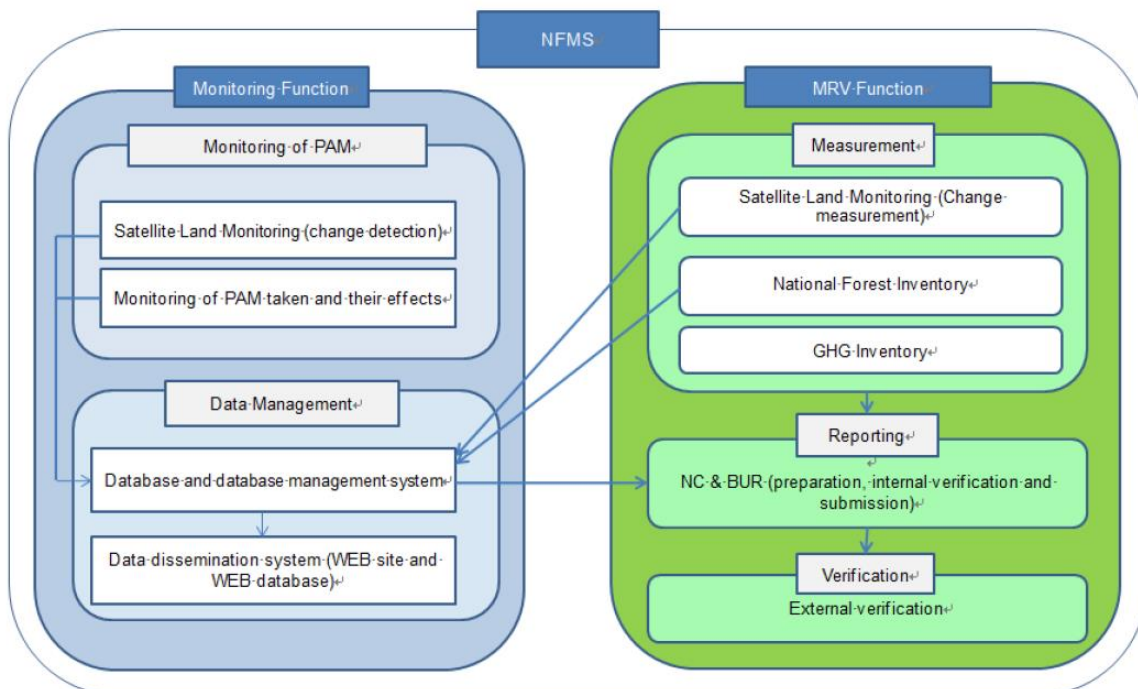
## G COMPONENT 4: MONITORING SYSTEM FOR FOREST AND SAFEGUARDS

### G.1 Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

- 29) Documentation of monitoring approach
- 30) Demonstration of early system implementation
- 31) Institutional arrangements and capacities

91. For Criterion 29 and 30, the RGC has made important progress in developing an NFMS. The first version of the NFMS was developed in 2015 and presented at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in December 2015. Development partners (FCPF, UNDP, UN-REDD, JICA, FAO and others) have been instrumental in advancing the NFMS. The NFMS document describes the design of the NFMS, which is being developed in a phased approach.

**Figure G-1 Functions of the NFMS**



92. The RGC has progressively prepared documentation for both the monitoring and MRV functions. For instance, a national forest definition and land use classification systems are in place and well-documented. Methodological approaches for a Spatial Monitoring Tool have been developed for importing and analysing the global alerts on forest loss. This solution is based on a cloud computer (Google Earth Engine). There has also been collaboration with other projects—including Greening Prey Lang, WCS and Conservation International to establish common methods that can support an early warning system of deforestation in protected areas.
93. However, as noted, no NFI has been implemented although the methodology and field manual were developed. Investing in an NFI is an important discussion, which is taking place within the RGC and with development partners. Undertaking an NFI is a costly exercise, but there are immense benefits in developing a multi-purpose NFI. The RGC could consider such an investment under the NRS-AIP. The M&E Framework for the NRS-AIP mentions NFI as one of the indicators related to forest and land use data management systems, but there is no explicit budget line for an NFI.

94. The role of the NFMS is important in supporting Cambodia's Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG-I) reporting. As already noted, the RGC has developed time series land use and land cover, and this has contributed to national communication reports and to the preparation of the Technical Annex to the BUR.
95. The RGC NFMS web portal is live and has viewable land use and land cover data with the 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2016 maps, using the IPCC classification. Methodological workflows for generating these maps are also well documented.
96. During this evaluation, the discussion centered on how the RGC would mainstream REDD+ beyond MAFF and MoE and ensure relevant capacity exists in non-forestry sector institutions in order to address drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Important in the discussion are issues of data sharing. There are still very strong views from a wide range of stakeholders including other government departments that data sharing continues to be challenging and could be made easier. Some consider the current process for accessing data as bureaucratic. Going forward, it will become increasingly necessary to open up data sharing specifically with respect to the requirements of the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework. Observations gathered from other countries' experiences are listed below.
  - a. The value of spatial data diminishes when there are access limitations, and this limits the opportunity for evidence-based policy.
  - b. When it is difficult to access data, there is often duplication as each organization tries to create its own data. This can be avoided by identifying the 'authoritative source' of data (the Custodian) to eliminate the need for others to duplicate work, thereby minimizing inefficiencies, eliminating less reliable decisions, and avoiding project delays and increased costs.
  - c. Spatial data is big data, which means it can drive additional value through analysis or thorough integration with other types of data, but it also requires special technology and skills to utilize and manage.
  - d. Spatial data and technology infrastructure represent a valuable resource for government, community, and the private sector. It also represents and requires a major investment on the part of the government. Therefore, it is important that all spatial products are viewed and managed as important assets in order to derive the maximum economic, social and environmental benefits.

## **G.2 Sub-component 4b Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards**

- 32) Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues
- 33) Monitoring, reporting and information sharing
- 34) Institutional arrangements and capacities—Multiple Benefits and Safeguards

97. In relation to Criterion 32, the three strategic objectives in the NRS are designed to address the various direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation by improving management and monitoring of forest resources and forest land use; by strengthening implementation of sustainable forest management; and by mainstreaming approaches to reduce deforestation, build capacity, and engage stakeholders.
98. Under Strategic Objective 2 of the AIP-NRS, there are several strategies and actions that aim to address and enhance livelihoods of local forest dependent communities. One action is the implementation of sustainable forest resources management by strengthening and scaling up community-based forest management initiatives. Another action is to identify and implement alternative and sustainable development programs for local communities most dependent on forest resources.
99. There is further ambition to expand afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration activities as well as engage and encourage the private sector to implement alternative and sustainable supply chains to agro-



industrial plantations. This is expected to benefit local communities by paying special attention to promoting participation of vulnerable communities, women, youth, and indigenous peoples.

100. The RGC also aims to promote land tenure security through forest land classification, zoning, demarcation and registration. This is particularly important given the concerns raised by various stakeholders. The lack of land tenure security for local communities creates uncertainty and diminishes their ability to effectively secure their own livelihoods. There are other initiatives by the government to address issues of land tenure. REDD+ could leverage the Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development Project III,<sup>4</sup> which aims to provide access to land tenure security, agricultural and social services, and selected infrastructure to small farmers and communities in project areas.
101. On the issue of non-carbon benefits, broader analysis in the NRS outlines the overall benefits while the implementation of the three demonstration activity pilot projects is expected to enable better understanding of relevant non-carbon benefits and social and environmental issues and how to resolve such issues.
102. The ESMF and Sol present how Cambodia will address and respect Cancun Safeguards during REDD+ implementation and identifies key modalities and practical arrangements that will be promoted and are in line with national policies, laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and conventions. The Sol analyzes the potential social and environmental risks that may be linked to REDD+ implementation and suggests appropriate remedial measures to mitigate those risks. The Sol also provides key indicators for gathering relevant information on how REDD+ safeguards will be addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures.
103. With regards to monitoring, reporting and information sharing (Criterion 33 and 34), the RGC is establishing an integrated NFMS, a SIS, and a National REDD+ Database as well as a framework for sharing feedback from consultation processes. The work on REDD+ MRV and Enhanced Transparency Framework is also expected to improve information sharing.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P171331>

## PART 4. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED



Photo Credit: Cambodia REDD+

## H Conclusions

Based on the assessment of reports and project documents, interviews with all informants, this evaluation makes the following conclusions:

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO FCPF-II PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

15. All four outcomes of the FCPF-II project are highly relevant and have enabled the RGC to build further capacity and strengthen institutional arrangements as the country transitions from REDD+ readiness to implementation and results-based payments. Institutional, operational and technical capacities for REDD+ thematic areas such as sectoral coordination, safeguards implementation, monitoring and reporting at the subnational level requires further strengthening and is the area that poses the biggest risk to effectively implementing the NRS.
16. The project governance was generally efficient since it was a continuation of the previous grant. The evaluation has not detected any major issues with the project's strategy and results framework. A minor aspect that future project designs could consider is to simplify the monitoring and reporting. It is understandable that each party must prepare progress and financial reports. However, there seems to be some redundancy in the reports as they contain the same information.
17. On the issues of sustainability, the evaluation observed that the day-to-day project administration relied on UNDP staff, comprising of national and international experts with terminal contracts. This heavy reliance on the PMU for daily project administration is a risk to continuity. The RGC should consider addressing this risk by appointing staff to gradually take over and transition the PMU's work into relevant national institutions.
18. There are activities in the results framework that are still ongoing and are unlikely to be completed before the end of 2020. An extension should be considered to enable the completion of these activities. A draft workplan proposal for the extension is presented in Annex 3.

### CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO REDD+ READINESS ASSESSMENT (FEEDBACK TO THE RGC)

19. The progress with the implemented R-PP is encouraging and an important step to transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation and results-based payments. MAFF and MoE have both played significant roles given the focus on the forest sector. However, other sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, mining, etc. also drive deforestation and contribute to GHG emissions. Therefore, closer intersectoral coordination is imperative. Mainstreaming REDD+ in these sectors is also necessary, and this may require a high-level of political support to make REDD+ a core part of annual plans as opposed to being portrayed as additional work.
20. The success of REDD+ in the future will largely depend on intersectoral coordination and commitment to policy and regulatory enforcement by all sectors. Likewise, allocation of financial resources for REDD+ implementation in the NRS-AIP also needs to encourage stronger intersectoral commitments, ensuring non-forestry sectors are recognized and allocated financial support from the NRS-AIP as part of mainstreaming REDD+ implementation.
21. The success of REDD+ will require access to sustainable finance. The NRS-AIP is a commendable milestone, which provides a clear platform for financial resource mobilization. Finalization (specifically for the financial mechanism) and endorsement of this document should be considered

a high priority to build confidence among potential funding providers. Additional prioritization maybe be required as nearly 50% of the activities in the NRS-AIP are ranked as high priority.

22. The issue of land tenure security, governance, and land ownership was raised by several stakeholders during this evaluation, pointing out that perhaps REDD+ is one of the options that can catalyze improvement in land tenure security for indigenous communities. The proposal under the NRS Strategic Objective 3.1, focusing on strengthening national and subnational capacity for an improved coordination mechanism for national land use policy and planning, is important. Clarifying the procedures for land allocation and defining the rights of provincial governments to determine land-use allocations will incentivize local communities to take ownership of interventions that lead to sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods. It is, therefore, necessary to establish a clear coordination mechanism between central and subnational government institutions and ensure adequate funding. REDD+ could leverage the Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development Project III.
23. Safeguards documents such as the ESMF were developed before the NRS-AIP. There is merit in updating these documents to reflect the content of the NRS-AIP. There is now sufficient understanding of the REDD+ architecture and strategic priorities in Cambodia. Therefore, an effective SIS with clear objectives, information needs, functions, and institutional arrangements can be institutionalized. However, there are concerns that the complexity of safeguards and limited national expertise in implementation of a nesting system may limit the effectiveness of the REDD+ program in Cambodia. Stakeholders pointed out gaps in technical and operational capacity for implementing social and environmental safeguards at the subnational level. This will require training and preparation of guidelines and an ongoing extension of support services.
24. The absence of an NFI was pointed out by many stakeholders including development partners. Understandably, NFIs are costly exercises. However, there would be immense benefits in developing a multi-purpose NFI, which can provide useful information for economic planning and investment decisions as well as data on biodiversity indicators and forest health. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the NRS-AIP mentions NFI as one of the indicators related to forest and land use data management systems, but there is no explicit budget line for the NFI. The NRS-AIP is an opportunity where financing the NFI could be considered.
25. Clear rules and methodologies for carbon accounting, a fair system to share REDD+ benefits among various stakeholders, and a registry or database to keep track of REDD+ emission reductions at multiple spatial scales, and the designed “nested” system will build confidence to attract private finance for forest conservation and enable carbon crediting at multiple scales (project, subnational, national). Finalization and endorsement of the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects (Prakas) will be instrumental to unlock private finance for REDD+ actions and should be considered an important priority.
26. The design and endorsement of the Financial Mechanism to channel REDD+ finance and sustain the costs of RTS operations will also be critical for the sustainability of Cambodia’s National REDD+ Programme. The RGC is encouraged to expedite the finalization and endorsement of the Financial Mechanism.
27. Endorsement of the reformed Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ implementation and efforts to generate sustainable funding must be coupled with efforts to build a supportive institutional framework. With the creation and staffing of technical units within the RTS, the RGC would invest its own financial and human resources, and therefore, demonstrate a real ambition to achieve REDD+ objectives, which will, in return, build trust and attract investments from potential investors and donors.

**28. Continuous support and capacity building are needed to:**

- Strengthen Institutional Arrangements and improve intersectoral coordination and broad-based stakeholder engagement at national and subnational levels.
- Enforce the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects and maintain the National REDD+ project Database.
- Mainstream gender considerations in REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels.
- Operate the NFMS and SIS, and monitor progress of REDD+ implementation.

## I LESSONS

This evaluation summarizes lessons learned and are highlighted by interviewees as follows:

### *Institutional reforms require political and economic commitment*

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Political support is essential to improve environmental governance. There has been a positive response to the jurisdictional changes in 2016 and 2017 that resulted in the transfer of all protected areas plus additional areas designated as Biodiversity Conservation Corridors from MAFF to MoE. But there is also feedback that such reforms require expedient implementation of relevant administrative, legal and regulatory instruments for such reforms to come into effect.

### *Land Tenure Security is important for local communities—it is an important ingredient for REDD+*

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During the past decade of implementing REDD+ readiness in Cambodia, there has been constant feedback that land tenure security and land governance are closely intertwined with rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. This constant feedback reflects the complexity of addressing land tenure security. Hence, interest groups and stakeholders advocate that the topic should remain a priority and be reflected in natural resource management, climate change and economic development strategies and dialogue. REDD+ success could be limited without strengthening the capacities for participatory planning, promoting clarity about tenure rights for communities, and facilitating investments in sustainable climate-smart livelihoods.

### *Broadening sectoral coordination will increase policy effectiveness*

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REDD+ implementation requires coordination and participation of all sectors and more effort is need to mainstream REDD+ in non-core forestry sectors and sub-sectors at both the national and subnational levels.

Coordination at the national level through the REDD+ Taskforce and the NCS is an important mitigation measure to reduce potential sectoral policy conflicts. However, the situation at the subnational level is different as some stakeholders believe policy conflicts still happen because coordination is much more complex and under-resourced. Many studies have highlighted that focusing on community livelihoods at an early stage has a longer sustainable impact on reducing deforestation and forest degradation when communities are given alternative sources of income and poverty reduction.

### *Early preparation of Action and Investment Plans offers early opportunities for accessing climate finance*

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There is an advantage in being an early mover, and Cambodia's NRS-AIP needs to be finalized as soon as possible. Neighbouring countries, such as Lao PDR and Vietnam, have been quick to prepare proposals to access finance for emission reduction programs.

### *National Approach to REDD+ Implementation*

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The RGC has now elected to use a nested approach. This is an important and strategic decision, but one that could have been made during the REDD+ readiness process, developing the necessary systems and legislative instruments such as Prakas at an earlier stage. Going forward, Cambodia has an opportunity to ensure subnational projects are implemented with integrity and in line with national policies and guidelines.

## PART 5. ANNEXES TO THE TERMINAL EVALUATION



Photo Credit: Cambodia REDD+

**Annex 1. FCPF Output Status as of June 2020**

Output/Outcome and Description of Target	Current Status Description*	Status
<b>Output 1: Strengthening of REDD+ management arrangements</b>		
1.1 Support for National REDD+ readiness coordination mechanisms	Program Board, Taskforce and Consultation Group meetings were as planned but this will continue beyond FCPF-II	Ongoing
1.2 Capacity building and training for REDD+ implementation	<p>A series of online consultation and discussion meetings with key institutions, and REDD+ project partners were conducted to design nested system, FRL update and allocation, GCF-SAP concept note. Held a series of REDD+ awareness raising and outreach events for sub-national administrations and university students</p> <p>A three-day training workshop on gender integrated in REDD+ planning and action was successfully conducted March 25-27, 2019. Twenty-eight participants (22 female) representing government institutions and national NGO partners attended.</p> <p>A three-day training was also conducted February 20-22, 2019 to enable participants to understand how to use the safeguard training toolkit as a basis for trainings, UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards requirements, overview of relevant REDD+ initiatives and requirements/ processes related to safeguards for the Green Climate Fund, implementation, information recording and reporting on REDD+ safeguards (policies, law and regulations, environmental and social management framework and how to access grievance redress mechanisms). Thirty-five representatives (9 women) of potential REDD+ implementors from the General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) and the General Directorate of Local Community (GDLC) of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), Forestry Administration (FA) and Fishery Administration (FiA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), National Council for Subnational Democratic Development, Ministry of Interior (NCDD/Mol), Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), FCPF/UNDP, RECOFTC –</p>	Complete
1.3 Stakeholder engagement and communication	<p>REDD+ programme website, Facebook and Twitter account regularly updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 4th final two-day awareness raising workshop for subnational administration authorities was conducted August 6-7, 2018 in Kratie province. This event contributed to enhanced awareness and knowledge of 90 (17 women) representatives from diverse stakeholders' groups including deputy provincial governors, directors/deputy directors of the provincial division of Inter sector, directors/deputy directors of provincial division of Investment and planning, directors/deputy directors of provincial department of environment, directors/deputy directors of provincial department of agriculture forestry and fishery, director/deputy directors of protected areas, Chiefs/vice chiefs of forest cantonment, Chiefs/vice chiefs of Fishery cantonment, governors/deputy of district governors, Chiefs/vice chiefs of Inter sector office at district level, and Chiefs/vice chiefs of commune councils from four provinces.</li> <li>• Four two-day awareness raising workshops for community networks. The first event was conducted October 17-18, 2018 in Pursat Province for community networks from Kampong Spue, Kampong Chhnang, Seim Reap, Battambang and Pailin provinces. The second event was organized October 30-31, 2018 in Siem Reap for community networks from Pursat, Bantheay Mean Chey, Udor Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom Provinces. The third event was on December 5-6, 2018 in Kampong Cham Provinces for community networks from Kratie, Steoung Treng, Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri provinces. The fourth and final event was organized on December 11-12, 2018 for community networks from Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot and Kep provinces. These events have contributed to the enhanced awareness and knowledge of 303 (59 women) representatives from diverse community networks including CF, CFI, CPA and IP networks.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>Output 2: Development of the NRS Action (or Investment) Plan and enabling policy instruments for REDD+</b>		

2.1 Development of NRS Action (or Investment) Plan and policy support for government agencies	Final draft of the AIP and the policy brief prepared and consulted with RTS and REDD+ partners. AIP-NRS has been translated in Khmer. Currently the draft has been submitted to MAFF & MoE for final review and endorsement Online CG meeting conducted on June 12, 2020 to review the final draft of AIP-NRS.	Complete
2.1.a. Mainstreaming Gender in Cambodia REDD+ Action and Investment Plan	Disclosed	Complete
2.1.b. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework developed, reviewed and validated.	Disclosed	Complete
2.1.c. Action Plan for National Protect Area Strategic Management Plan (AP-NPASMP) prepared and endorsed.	Disclosed	Complete
2.1.d. Final draft of NPSFP ready for endorsement by MAFF	Disclosed	Complete
2.2. Development of a Safeguards Information System including Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM)	SIS Framework Disclosed	Ongoing
2.2.a. Finalization of SIS and submission of the Sol to the UNFCCC	Environmental and Social management Framework (ESMF) Framework for safeguards information system (SIS) including SIS web portal and database has been developed. The RGC has submitted to the UNFCCC its first Summary of Information on how Cancun Safeguards will be addressed and respected during REDD+ implementation.	Complete
2.2.b. Development of GRM	As of December, 2019	Ongoing
2.2.c. Testing operationalization of SIS	LoA to support pilot and improve Safeguards Information System Operations has been endorsed. Work on the preparation of the safeguards report on the REDD+ pilot sites started.	Ongoing
2.3. Development of elements for the participation in GCF pilot for REDD+ Results-based payments and other resource mobilization for REDD+ implementation	This is in progress but should be prioritized	Ongoing
2.3.a. Development of a Concept Note to seek RBPs from GCF for the 2015-2016 period for submission to UNFCCC	As of December 2019: Delayed. Await finalization of BUR TA to confirm REDD+ results that can be requested for RBP from REDD+.	Ongoing

2.3.b Finalize and submit GCS-SAP concept note and project funding proposal on REDD+ Integrated Program for net Zero-deforestation jurisdiction in Stung Treng Province in Cambodia	Final draft concept note has been revised and resubmitted to UNDP NY and Regional Bangkok Hub to review safeguards compliance. Five project concept notes prepared and submitted to DPs.	Ongoing
2.3.c. Finalize and validate assessment report on mapping of public and land use investment in Cambodia	The team collected and analyzed the data including the Sankey chart. Draft study report prepared for stakeholders' review and comments.	Ongoing
2.3.d. Design REDD+ finance architecture	As of December 2019 – Draft presented in the NRS	To Develop
<b>Output 3: Enhancement of sub-national capacities for integrated NRM planning for REDD+</b>		
3.1. Development of subnational management plans for NRM and REDD+	Three subnational proposals on demonstration activities to implement REDD+ related PAMs and operationalize REDD+ safeguards have been prepared and endorsed. Those proposals include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The General Directorate of Administration, Nature Protection and Conservation (GDANCP) and General Directorate of Local Community (GDLC), Ministry of Environment (MoE), will focus on supporting key programme activities defined in the Action Plan of the Kulen Mountain National Park (2018-2027) including (i) securing of park boundaries and management zones; (ii) facilitating forest conservation, restoration and maintenance; (iii) Enhancing of law enforcement and (iv) Expand environmentally sustainable livelihood opportunities.</li> <li>2. Forestry Administration (FA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will focus on strengthening the implementation of the Partnership Forestry Management Plan in the production forestry areas in Pursat province including (i) supporting the production of wood and NWFPs through reforestation, forest rehabilitation and planted forest management, (ii) expand livelihood opportunities for local communities through implementing agroforestry/integrated farming system and expansion of biodigesters and (iii) strengthening law enforcement.</li> <li>3. Fishery Administration (FiA), MAFF will support local community to restore 40 ha of flooded forest in the fishery conservation zone in the Tonle Sap Great Lake.</li> </ol>	Ongoing
3.1.a. Guideline and manual to prepare Protect Area Management Plan (PAMP) finalized and endorsed by MoE/GDANCP	The document has been disclosed on the web portal	Complete
3.1.b. Design approach for subnational REDD+ implementation of landscape management approaches	This is also an important activity that requires prioritizing.	Ongoing
3.1.c. Design of a nested system for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia	Technical note on "staged approach" for design of Nested System developed and shared among REDD+ partners. Second draft of the Prakas on REDD+ Greenhouse Gas Mechanisms in Cambodia has been developed. Stakeholders' comments and inputs on the draft have been recorded.	Ongoing

3.1.d. Finalize Subnational REDD+ pilot implementation	<p><i>GDANCP</i>: Final draft of Kulen Mountain National Parks zoning developed and validated. Draft sub-decree for Kulen Mountain National Parks zoning, was developed for endorsement by MoE and RGC. Planting plan of 20 ha is approved.</p> <p><i>FA</i>: 21.35 ha of progressed degraded area restored; 20 biodigesters were successfully installed and operated. Twenty IPs, Poor and Partnership Forestry member benefited; two women saving groups established and operationalized; and ongoing technical backstopping and monitoring conducted.</p> <p><i>FiA</i>: more than 40,000 flooded forest seedlings produced; 40 ha of degraded flooded forest area in the Tonle Sap Flooded Forest protection and conservation area planted; and awareness raising posters and boundary poles and canal installed at the tree planting sites.</p>	Ongoing
3.2. Support for Community based REDD+ through CPAs, CFs and collaborative management (to be financed by the UN-REDD CBR+)	Twenty-four Community Forests, Community Protected Areas and Community Fisheries small scale projects supported and implemented	Complete
<b>Output 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation</b>		
4.1. Strengthening of National MRV Technical Team and national capacity		Ongoing
4.1.a. Web portal is updated with the 2006-2018 series maps and geo information.	As of December 2019: Validation of results of 2018 map completed, and a methodology to improve the minimum mapping unit of land use maps has been tested. The NFMS web portal was updated with the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2018 LULUCF maps using the IPCC classification.	Complete
4.2. Support for Nationally derived Activity Data, Emission Factors, GHG estimates for LULUCF/AFOLU sector improved, and reporting		Ongoing
4.2.a. Update time-series data of LULUCF and REDD+ monitoring approach	All maps from 2006 to 2018 are available for the MRV team and the MoE.	Complete
4.2.b. The LULUCF maps of 2016-2018 are completed, statistics and booklets are finalized.	LULUCF 2016-2018 map, statistics and dashboard in excel and booklets are finalized. Mapathon collected information on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation all around the country. The analysis of data is finalized, and the report has been shared with the MRV team.	Ongoing
4.2.c. Update Forest Reference Level (FRL) and submit to UNFCCC (Conservation and SFM to develop; Degradation ongoing; deforestation and enhancement complete)	The first draft of the FRL updated report included a reference period for 2010-2018; an Activity Data (AD) approach using Stratify Area Estimator to estimate AD; updated Emission Factors calculation and protocols; and new integrated data-integrated, and uncertainty analysis has been developed	Ongoing



4.2.d. Develop options for FRL allocation at multiple spatial scales for REDD+ Implementation in Cambodia	The options for allocating the FRL is in the draft report. The report It has been prepared and shared with stakeholders.	Ongoing
4.2.e. REDD+ Emission Factors developed using national data	<p>FAO has completed to updated the emission factors with:</p> <p><b>29. Flooded forest model development</b></p> <p><b>30. Emission factors of flooded forests</b></p> <p><b>31. Integration of USAID data on mangroves and flooded forests development</b></p> <p><b>Flooded Forest model development</b></p>	Ongoing
4.2.g. Finalization and submission of BUR and REDD+TA to the UNFCCC	The first BUR report and the first REDD+ Technical Annex have been officially endorsed by the Minster of MoE in early July 2020 for submission to UNFCCC.	Completed
4.3. Capacity building for monitoring impacts of REDD+ interventions		Ongoing
4.3.a. National Forest Monitoring	A methodology to improve the monitoring of the protected areas was completed. FCPF is working with Greening Prey Lang and the MoE in the transfer of technologies for improving the alert system	Ongoing
4.3.b. Publish and launch 2018 forest cover assessment/LULUCF map	2018 forest cover assessment/LULUCF Map is completed and under publication.	Completed
4.3.c. Development of Regulatory Framework (Registry and Benefits Sharing)	Second draft of the Prakas on REDD+ Greenhouse Gas Mechanisms in Cambodia has been developed. Stakeholders' comments and inputs on the draft have been recorded.	Ongoing
4.3.d. Develop REDD+ project registry system for endorsement by REDD+ Taskforce	Wireframe file (mock-up) of the REDD+ project database/registry was developed.	Ongoing
Sources: Project Document; 2018 Progress Update, Second Meeting of FCPF II Project Executive Board Annex 4 and Annex 5 (February 11, 2019); 2019 Progress Update, Third Meeting of FCPF II Project Executive Board (January 30, 2020) Annex 4 and Annex 5; and Progress Reports		

\*Status as of June 2020 unless otherwise noted

## Annex 2. Annex 2 Evaluation Criteria Matrix

Project Component	Indicators to be assessed for the TE	Data sources
<b>Project Strategy</b>		
<u>Project Design</u>	<p>Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?</li> <li>Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country?</li> <li>What structures are/were used e.g. Project Board, and what sustainability measures are included in the design, e.g. replication of activities, budget lines reserved for post-project continuation and transition of institution arrangements to BAU e.g. (Redd+ Taskforce/ Secretariat, Technical Team, Consultation Groups, Gender Groups).</li> <li>Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?</li> <li>Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design.</li> </ul> <p>If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement. Are other strategies possible to achieve expected results and impact? BAU?</p>	<p>FCPF Assessment Framework Project document review</p> <p>Project Preparation Grant Document</p> <p>Consultations process</p> <p>Background context analysis</p> <p>Informant interviews</p> <p>Government counterparts; Government stakeholders including all ministries participating from coordinating bodies or steering committees;</p> <p>Civil Society Organizations; Indigenous Peoples Organizations;</p> <p>Representatives from other bi-lateral or multi-lateral initiatives co-financing the project.</p> <p>Provincial and district offices</p> <p>Minutes, project documents, project staff and partners</p>
<u>Results Framework/ Logframe</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound).</li> <li>Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?</li> <li>Result framework indicators, MT and EoP targets</li> </ul>	<p>M&amp;E Plan use, need for Change / adjustment of M&amp;E</p>
<b>Progress Towards Results</b>		
<u>Progress towards outcome analysis</u>	<p>Review the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colour code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as "Not on target to be achieved" (red).</li> <li>Review the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.</li> <li>Calculate percentage of outputs and results achieved.</li> <li>Progress Towards Results framework: what are remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project? Description of specific challenges/barriers/constraints.</li> </ul>	<p>M&amp;E reports, Interviews (PMT)</p> <p>FCPF Assessment Framework</p> <p>Project reports, risk table /assessment, interviews</p> <p>Project reports, policy and strategic documents, interviews</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there an inclusive gender approach? Does it conform to UNDP Gender Marker, disaggregated beneficiaries/participants, social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in policy and strategic documents?</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Implementation and Adaptive Management</b>		
<u>Management Arrangements:</u>	<p>Review the overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the Project Document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were changes made and were they effective? Were responsibilities and reporting lines clear?</li> <li>• Does the project results framework allow for good project management?</li> <li>• Is the project's governance effective?</li> <li>• Was decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.</li> <li>• Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.</li> <li>• Review the quality of support provided by (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement.</li> <li>• Is the project's management efficient?</li> <li>• Has the programme been able to adapt successfully to changing circumstances?</li> <li>• Is the quality of the outputs sufficient?</li> <li>• Has the programme been able to adapt successfully to changing circumstances?</li> </ul>	<p>Interviews of stakeholders /partners</p> <p>Interviews, Minutes, reports.</p> <p>Results frameworks</p>
<u>Work Planning:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is work planning participatory and are work plans and implementation timely and of good quality?</li> <li>• Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they were been resolved.</li> <li>• Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?</li> <li>• Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.</li> </ul>	<p>Interviews, reports</p> <p>Stakeholders perception, AWPBs review</p>
<u>Finance and co-finance:</u>	<p>Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the project able to spend its budget on-time?</li> <li>• Assess the rate of delivery against approved budget; evolution over time (Y to Y)</li> <li>• Review any changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.</li> <li>• Assess procurement options for cost-effectiveness (include stakeholder perceptions).</li> <li>• Did the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allowed management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allowed for the timely flow of funds?</li> <li>• Is financial management effective with regards to fund flow issues, audit objections, etc.?</li> </ul>	<p>FACE reports Progress reports</p> <p>Audit reports, project reports, interviews</p>

<u>Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:</u>	Review the monitoring tools used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did they provide the necessary information? Did they involve key partners? Were they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Did they use existing information? Were they efficient and cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they have been made more participatory and inclusive?</li> <li>• Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Were sufficient resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Were these resources allocated effectively?</li> <li>• Has the project produced timely, quality reports?</li> </ul>	M&E reports, interviews Quarterly, annual reports, FCPF, etc.
<u>Stakeholder Engagement:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management: did the project develop and leverage the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?</li> <li>• Participation and country-driven processes: did local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Did they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?</li> <li>• Participation and public awareness: to what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed towards achievement of project objectives? Has the project developed appropriate partnerships with key stakeholders?</li> </ul>	Reports, interviews Stakeholder perception, QA of UNDP-RTAs
<u>Reporting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess how adaptive management changes were reported by the project management unit and shared with the Project Board.</li> <li>• Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertook and fulfilled FCPF/UNDP reporting requirements</li> <li>• Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process were documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.</li> </ul>	Reports, interviews
<u>Communications</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Was communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Were there feedback mechanisms when communication was received? Did this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?</li> <li>• Review external project communication: Were proper means of communication established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns (Social media, web site, brochures, video's, newspapers, manuals etc.).</li> <li>• For reporting purposes, summarize the project's contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits</li> </ul>	Reports, interviews Media material
<b>Sustainability</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, Quarterly and Annual Project Reports and risk ratings applied were appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.</li> </ul>	Reports, interviews
<u>Financial risks to sustainability:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the FCPF grant ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income</li> </ul>	Risk Table, changes requests

	<p>generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are budgets internalized in government budget (e.g. O&amp;M budget, training, staffing, etc.)?</li> <li>• How have these risks affected the project? How have they been mitigated?</li> </ul>	
<u>Socio-economic risks to sustainability:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outcomes?</li> <li>• What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by government and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained?</li> <li>• Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow?</li> <li>• Is there sufficient public/stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project?</li> <li>• Are lessons learned documented by the Project Team and shared/transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?</li> </ul>	Reports, Interviews
<u>Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits?</li> <li>• While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer were put in place.</li> <li>• Assess staffing, budgets, built awareness, knowledge, curriculum developed.</li> </ul>	Reports, Interviews
<u>Environmental risks to sustainability:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?</li> </ul>	Reports, Interviews

### **Annex 3. Draft Extension Proposal**

**This note presents the activities to be implemented in the framework of the extension of the FCPF-II project until March 2021.**

**Proposed Extension period: 1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

#### **1. Institutional arrangements, inter-sectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement**

Inter-sectoral coordination and engagement with diverse stakeholders are key for the success of the Cambodia REDD+ Programme. Activities will support operations of the REDD+ Taskforce and REDD+ Consultation Group during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021.

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##### **Activity 1.1: Organization of the quarterly meeting of the REDD+ Taskforce**

This activity will be used to present the latest developments of the Cambodia REDD+ Programme to the REDD+ Taskforce members. The results and recommendations of the FCPF-II project will be presented and discussed. A potential sustainability strategy for the operations of the REDD+ Taskforce will tentatively be discussed to ensure a smooth transition between the current FCPF support and the post FCPF phase.

##### **Activity 1.2 Organization of the quarterly meeting of the REDD+ Consultation Group**

As for the REDD+ Taskforce, this activity will be used to present the latest developments of the Cambodia REDD+ Programme to the REDD+ Consultation Group members. The results and recommendations of the FCPF-II project will be presented and discussed. A potential sustainability strategy for the operations of the REDD+ Consultation Group will tentatively be discussed to ensure a smooth transition between the current FCPF support and the post FCPF phase.

##### **Activity 1.3 Update of the Cambodia REDD+ website**

This activity will update the Cambodia REDD+ website and highlight the latest developments of the Cambodia REDD+ Programme, such as (i) the completion of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, (ii) the development of the REDD+ Action & Investment Plan (incl. the reform of the Institutional Arrangements and initial Financial Architecture for REDD+ implementation) and (iii) the design of the nested system (and associated regulatory framework) for REDD+ projects. A special attention will be paid to present, detail and link the different web portals that will be used during REDD+ implementation, such as the NFMS, the SIS, the National REDD+ Project Database and the M&E platform.

#### **2. NFMS operations**

Activities will further define the institutional arrangements and strengthen the technical capacities for operating the NFMS, through the provision of institutional and technical capacity-building support to the newly appointed government officials of the MRV technical unit.

Activity 2.1 Development of guidelines for NFMS operations



This activity aims to conclude the implementation of the NFMS as a long-term activity undertaken by the government. These guidelines search to formalize, within an institutional framework, the monitoring of the forest and land use sector by the MRV technical unit, enabling and strengthening the partnerships with existing stakeholders. Moreover, the guidelines will clarify the operations to support the REDD+ activities during the implementation phase.

### **Activity 2.2. Training sessions of RTS officials on the practical use of guidelines for NFMS operations**

At least one training session will be organized to build the capacities of the RTS officials (especially the newly appointed staff of the MRV technical unit) on the guidelines for NFMS operations.

## **3. SIS operations**

Activities will further define the institutional arrangements and strengthen the technical capacities for operating the SIS.

### **Activity 3.1. Development of guidelines for safeguards implementation and reporting through the SIS**

Practical guidelines will be developed to define and further describe the steps required for the safeguards implementation and reporting process through the SIS, such as:

- Environmental and social impact assessment of potential impacts of REDD+ Policies and Measures;
- Environmental and social management framework and associated management plans to address potential environmental and social impacts;
- Data collection (on the implementation of the safeguards management plans) and recording in the SIS;
- Data aggregation and analysis;
- Report on the implementation of the safeguards management plans;
- Periodic compilation of the summary of information on how safeguards are addressed and respected during REDD+ implementation.

### **Activity 3.2. Launching of the safeguard's website**

A communication event will be organized to officially launch, present and promote the SIS.

## **4. Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects and National REDD+ Project Database**

### **Activity 4.1 Development of guidelines for the operationalization of the regulatory framework for REDD+ Projects**

The Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects (Prakas) refers to different “guidelines” that need to be developed for the full operation of the nested system for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia. The different guidelines will target different users (at least the project proponents and the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS) staff), as they will be related to different parts of the registration, assessment, monitoring and verification processes. The RTS will take the opportunity of the FCPF-II project extension to initiate the development of the following guidelines during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021.

Guideline	Target user(s)	Comments
32. Guidelines for project registration in the NRPD	RTS & project proponents	Practical guidelines to detail the requirements and steps to register a project, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, description and location [where to download] of the templates associated with the various steps (e.g. Concept note template, LoNO Request Form (with description of the fields, and related evidence required), REDD+ registration form (Annex 10 of the Sub-Decree), with description of the fields, etc.);</li> <li>• How the RTS informs the proponent on the status of the process, following the registration;</li> <li>• How the proponent may appeal a decision</li> </ul>
33. Guidelines for the roster selection & REDD+ project assessment	RTS & REDD+ Project Review Team	Linked to review process for entry to NRPD outlined in draft Prakas
34. Guidelines for the management of the NRPD (database and web portal)	RTS, database manager	Practical guidelines to be based on the reports & results from the IT company designing the NRPD database and web portal and will include guidelines to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manage the database and web portal;</li> <li>• record findings and update the status of projects;</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>
35. Guidelines for monitoring & QA/QC of ER results	RTS & project proponents	Practical guidelines to monitor the ER results and implement QA/QC procedures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General specifications of data, methods and results of the FRL (stratification, REDD+ activities, pool and gases);</li> <li>• Procedures to send, store, use and integrate the data sent by projects;</li> <li>• Procedures to access to the most up-to-date AD, EF and emissions (access to the NFMS, EF database, GHG-I, etc.);</li> <li>• General guidelines to monitor the results, describing the methods to develop and update AD, EF and emission/removal results. All projects must follow the NFI field manual to collect biomass information;</li> <li>• Guidelines for the RTS to conduct the QA/QC of data provided by projects.</li> </ul>

#### Activity 4.2. Development of a JNR proposal

The RTS will take the opportunity of the FCPF-II project extension to initiate the development of a JNR (Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+) proposal to be submitted to VERRA’s JNR framework. Based on the work carried out in 2020 to develop the nested system, this activity will help ensuring that future nested projects (and their freshly allocated new baselines) comply with VERRA’s VCS (Verified Carbon Standard) standard and can generate REDD+ finance on the voluntary carbon markets.

### 5. Resources mobilization

#### Activity 5.1. Development of a GCF-SAP funding proposal

The FCPF project is currently supporting the RCG to develop a concept note on “*Moving Towards REDD+ Implementation through Private Sector Engagement in REDD+ Actions*” to be submitted to the GCF-SAP funding window. To the extent in which the GCF's feedback on the concept would be positive, this activity will contribute to the development of the concept into a full funding proposal.

## BUDGET

Thematic areas & Activities	Budget Available
<b><i>Institutional arrangements, inter-sectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement</i></b>	<b>15,000</b>
Organization of the quarterly meeting of the REDD+ Taskforce	
Organization of the quarterly meeting of the REDD+ Consultation Group	
Update of the Cambodia REDD+ website	
<b><i>NFMS operations</i></b>	<b>29,000</b>
Development of guidelines for NFMS operations	
Training sessions of RTS officials on the practical use of guidelines for NFMS operations	
<b><i>SIS operations</i></b>	<b>50,000</b>
Development of guidelines for safeguards implementation and reporting through the SIS	
Launching of the safeguards website	
<b><i>Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects and National REDD+ Project Database</i></b>	<b>90,000</b>
Development of guidelines for the operationalization of the regulatory framework for REDD+ Projects	
Development of a JNR proposal	
<b><i>Resources mobilization</i></b>	<b>0</b>
Development of GCF-SAP Funding Proposal	Existing contract to be ammended
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,000</b>
GMS	16,000
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>200,000</b>

## Annex 4. List of Stakeholders Consulted

Date	Time	Institution/Name/REDD+ Relevant	Teleconference	Remarks
<b>Week 1</b>				
<b>Day 1: Monday July 20, 2020</b>				
Afternoon	11:00 – 12:00	<b>FCPF-II Team</b> - Mr. Nhem Sovanna, National Project Advisor/FCPF-II - Mr. Carlos Riano, MRV Specialist/FCPF-II - Mr. Lun Kimhy, REDD+ Coordinator/FCPF-II	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 2: Tuesday July 21, 2020</b>				
				No meetings
<b>Day 3: Wednesday July 22, 2020</b>				
	13:00 – 14:30	<b>Government</b> - Mr. Ouk Vibol, member RTF/FIA-MAFF - Mr. You Chan Praseth, REDD DEMO Project/ FIA-MAFF	Zoom	Has been Done
	14:30 – 16:30	<b>Government</b> - H.E Chea Sam Ang, National Project Director/FCPF-II - Mr. Uy Kamal, Deputy REDD+ Secretariat - Mr. Leng Chivin, National Project Manager/FCPF-II	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 4: Thursday July 23, 2020</b>				
	11:00 – 12:30	<b>UNDP Regional</b> - Ms. Celina, UNDP Regional	Zoom	Has been Done
	15:00 – 16:30	<b>UNDP CO</b> - Mr. Chhum Sovanny, UNDP - Mr. Yeang Donal, UNDP	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 5: Friday July 24, 2020</b>				
	20:00 – 21:30	<b>REDD+ Project (Green Prey Lang, USAID)</b> - Mr. Jeff Silverman,		Has been Done
<b>Week 2</b>				
<b>Day 6: Monday July 27, 2020</b>				
	13:00 – 14:30	<b>Academic and Research Institute</b> - Mr. Kim Soben, MRV team and consultation group/RUA - Mr. Seak Sophat, MRV team and consultation group/RUPP	Zoom	Has been Done
	14:30 – 16:30	<b>FCPF-II Team</b> - Mr. Nhem Sovanna, National Project Advisor/FCPF-II - Mr. Carlos Riano, MRV Specialist/FCPF-II - Mr. Lun Kimhy, REDD+ Coordinator/FCPF-II	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 7: Tuesday July 28, 2020</b>				
	11:00 – 12:30	<b>REDD+ Project (CI)</b> - Mr. Jackson, Conservation International		Has been Done
	14:00 – 15:30	<b>Consultation Group</b> - Ms. Hou Kalyan, Head of CG/RECOFTC - Ms. Chhay Kimheak, Deputy of CG/WCS - Mr. Som Sopheak, Secretary of CG/AFD-KPTH	Zoom	Has been Done
	16:00 – 17:30	<b>FCPF-II Team</b> - Mr. Carlos Riano, MRV Specialist/FCPF-II	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 8: Wednesday July 29, 2020</b>				
	14:30 – 16:00	<b>FAO</b> - Ms. Ann Chansopheak, REDD operational coordinator/FAO - Mr. So Than, Consultant/FAO - Ms. Sar Sophyra, Forestry specialist/FAO	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 9: Thursday July 30, 2020</b>				
		-		No meeting
<b>Day 10: Friday July 31, 2020</b>				
		-		No meeting
<b>Week 3</b>				
<b>Day 11: Monday August 03, 2020</b>				
	14:00 – 15:30	<b>UNDP CO-FCPF</b> - Ms. Srey Sras Panha, UNDP-CO - Ms. Nuon Chenda, UNDP-FCPF		Has been Done

	16:00 – 17:00	<b>Government</b> - H.E Kim Nong, Member NRTF, DG-GDANCP/MoE	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 12: Tuesday August 04, 2020</b>				
	15:00 – 16:30	<b>FCPF-II Team</b> - Mr. Quentin Renard, REDD+ Specialist/FCPF-II	Zoom	Has been Done
	16:30 – 17:30	<b>Government</b> - Mr. Chhun Delux, Deputy Department, FA	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 13: Wednesday August 05, 2020</b>				
	13:00 – 14:30	<b>CCCA and Regional</b> - Mr. Julien Chevillard, CCCA - Mr. Bruno Hugel, Regional	Zoom	Has been Done
	22:00 – 23:30	<b>Consultant</b> - Ms. Dona Lee, Consultant develop REDD+ nesting system	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Day 15: Friday August 07, 2020</b>				
	15:00 – 16:30	<b>Debriefing</b> - All people have been discussed	Zoom	Has been Done
<b>Week 4</b>				
<b>Day 16: Monday August 10, 2020</b>				
	14:00 – 15:30	<b>Government</b> - Dr. Khorn Saret, Head of REDD+ Secretariat	Zoom	Has been Done
	16:30 – 17:30	<b>Community Based REDD+</b> - Ms. Ngin Navirak, National Coordinator, GEF SGP – UNDP	Zoom	Has been Done

## Annex 5. List of Documents Reviewed

No.	Title	Publisher
1	National Forest Monitoring System of Cambodia, November 2015	RGC
2	National Area Strategic Management Plan 2017-2031, 2017	MoE
3	Annual Progress Report to FCPF for Cambodia, January 1-December 31, 2016	UNDP
4	REDD+ Annual Country Progress Reporting (with semi-annual update), Cambodia, April 2016-June 2017	RTS
5	Cambodia REDD+ Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Grant Midterm Review and request for Additional Funding, July 2016	RGC-UNDP
6	Zoning Guidelines for Protect Areas in Cambodia 2017	GDANCP
7	Initial Forest Reference Level for Cambodia Under the UNFCCC Framework, May 22, 2017	RGC
8	National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2026 (May 2017)	RGC
9	Project Document Cambodia for Forest Carbon Partnership Facility II, September 27, 2017	RGC-UNDP
10	Annual Progress Report 2017 United Nations Development Programme Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness, January 1-December 31, 2017	RGC-UNDP
11	Quarterly Progress Report 2018 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), January 1-March 31, 2018	RGC-UNDP
12	Quarterly Progress Report 2018 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), January 1-March 31, 2018	RGC-UNDP
13	Minutes and supporting documents of 1st FCPF Project Executive Board Meeting, March 19, 2018	PEB
14	Cambodia Forest Cover 2016, March 2018	MoE
15	FAO-GEF Project Document: Strengthening capacity in the agricultural and land use sectors for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), May 2018	FAO-GEF
16	Quarterly Progress Report 2018 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), April 1-June 30, 2018	RGC-UNDP
17	Quarterly Progress Report 2018 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), July 1-September 30, 2018	RGC-UNDP
18	Spot Check for FCPF-II, January 1-August 2018	PricewaterhouseCoopers
19	Clarification of the UNFCCC REDD+ Safeguards in accordance with the National Context and Circumstances of Cambodia, August 2018	Climate & Law Policy
20	Identification and Assessment of Cambodia's Legal and Institutional Framework Relevant to Cancun Safeguards and UNDP SES, September 2018	Climate & Law Policy
21	Environmental and Social Management Framework Cambodia National REDD+ Strategy, November 2018	Climate & Law Policy



22	Framework of the Safeguard Information System in Cambodia (Beta Version), December 2018	Climate & Law Policy
23	Cambodia's Safeguard Information System User Manual	Climate & Law Policy
24	Capacity Building Tool-Kit for REDD+ Safeguards in Cambodia	Climate & Law Policy
25	Production Forest Strategic Plan 2018-2032	MAFF
26	Annual Progress Report 2018 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), January 1-December 31, 2018	RGC-UNDP
27	Annual Progress Report to the FCPF Cambodia, January 1-December 31, 2018	UNDP
28	FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report, 2018-2019	RGC
29	Action Plan Kulen Mountain National Park 2018-2027	MoE
30	Mainstreaming Gender into Cambodia's Action and Investment Plan Assessment Report, January 2019	Women Organizing for Change and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)
31	Quarterly Progress Report 2019 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), January 1-March 31, 2019	RGC-UNDP
32	Minutes and supporting documents of 2nd FCPF Project Executive Board Meeting, February 11, 2019	PEB
33	Quarterly Progress Report 2019 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), April 1-June 30, 2019	RGC-UNDP
34	Quarterly Progress Report 2019 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), July 1-September 30, 2019	RGC-UNDP
35	First Summary of Information on Safeguards, October 2019	RTS
36	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Implementation of the Action and Investment Plan of the National REDD+ Strategy in Cambodia, November 2019	RGC-UNDP
37	Development of Land Use Typology, November 2019	SO Polen, Chan Sophal and Chum Nimul
38	Annual Progress Report 2019 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), January 1-December 31, 2019	RGC-UNDP
39	Annual Progress Report to the FCPF Cambodia, January 1-December 31, 2019	UNDP
40	HACT Financial Audit Report, FCPF II, January 1-December 31, 2019	Sarb & Associates
41	Action and Investment Plan for National REDD+ Strategy (Draft) December 2019	RGC-UNDP
42	Quarterly Progress Report 2020 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), January 1-March 31, 2020	RGC-UNDP
43	Cambodia's First Biennial Update Report, February 2020	NCSD
44	Minutes and supporting documents of 3rd FCPF Project Executive Board Meeting, January 30, 2020	PEB
45	FCPF-II Project Extension Document for January 1-March 31, 2021	RGC-UNDP

<b>46</b>	Supporting MRV development for REDD+ Implementation Final Report, March 2020	Asia Air Survey
<b>47</b>	Action & Investment Plan for the Implementation of National REDD+ Strategy of Cambodia, April 2020	RTS
<b>48</b>	Updated FREL First Draft, June 15, 2020	Javier Cano-UNDP
<b>49</b>	Quarterly Progress Report 2020 United Nations Development Programme Cambodia Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project (FCPF-II), April 1-June 30, 2020	RGC-UNDP

**Annex 6. Code of conduct signed by the evaluator**

**Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form<sup>10</sup>**


**Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System**

**Name of Consultant:** Nelson Gapare

**Name of Consultancy Organization** (where relevant): Greensoft GMC

**I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.**

Signed at place on date Madrid, 10-August 2020

Signature: 

# Cambodia REDD+ Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Grant II

## TERMINAL EVALUATION REPORT

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### លេខាធិការរដ្ឋានដេបូតកម្ពុជា

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**Published:** November 2020

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